MYSTERY • SUSPENSE • DANGER

STORIES FOR MEN

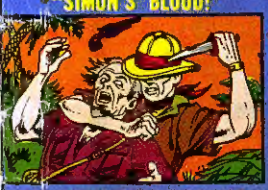
MEN'S Adventures

OCT. No. 10 10¢

ALSO IN THIS THRILL-PACKED ISSUE

"ONE-WAY TICKET!" AN AMAZING STORY WRITTEN BY A DEAD MAN!

WHAT WAS THE MYSTERIOUS DEMAND FOR... "SIMON'S BLOOD!"



NO MAN COULD ESCAPE, ONCE HE WAS FINGERED FOR "THE DRIVE OF DEATH!"

IT TOOK THE STRANGEST INCIDENT OF THE ENTIRE KOREAN WAR TO COMPLETE...

"THE EDUCATION OF THOMAS DILLON!"

"Uncle Bernie's" TOY SHOP

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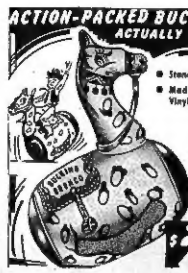

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THE Education OF THOMAS DILLON

WRITTEN AND DRAWN ESPECIALLY FOR MEN'S ADVENTURES!

I MET *ED GILMAN* DOWN IN McFEELEY'S! HE WAS EVERYTHING I HAD PICTURED AN *ACE WAR CORRESPONDENT* TO BE ··· SUAVE, TOUGH, CYNICAL, AND BRILLIANT ····

SO YOU'RE TIED UP WITH THE *CLARION*, EH? WHAT ARE YOU COVERING, DILLON?

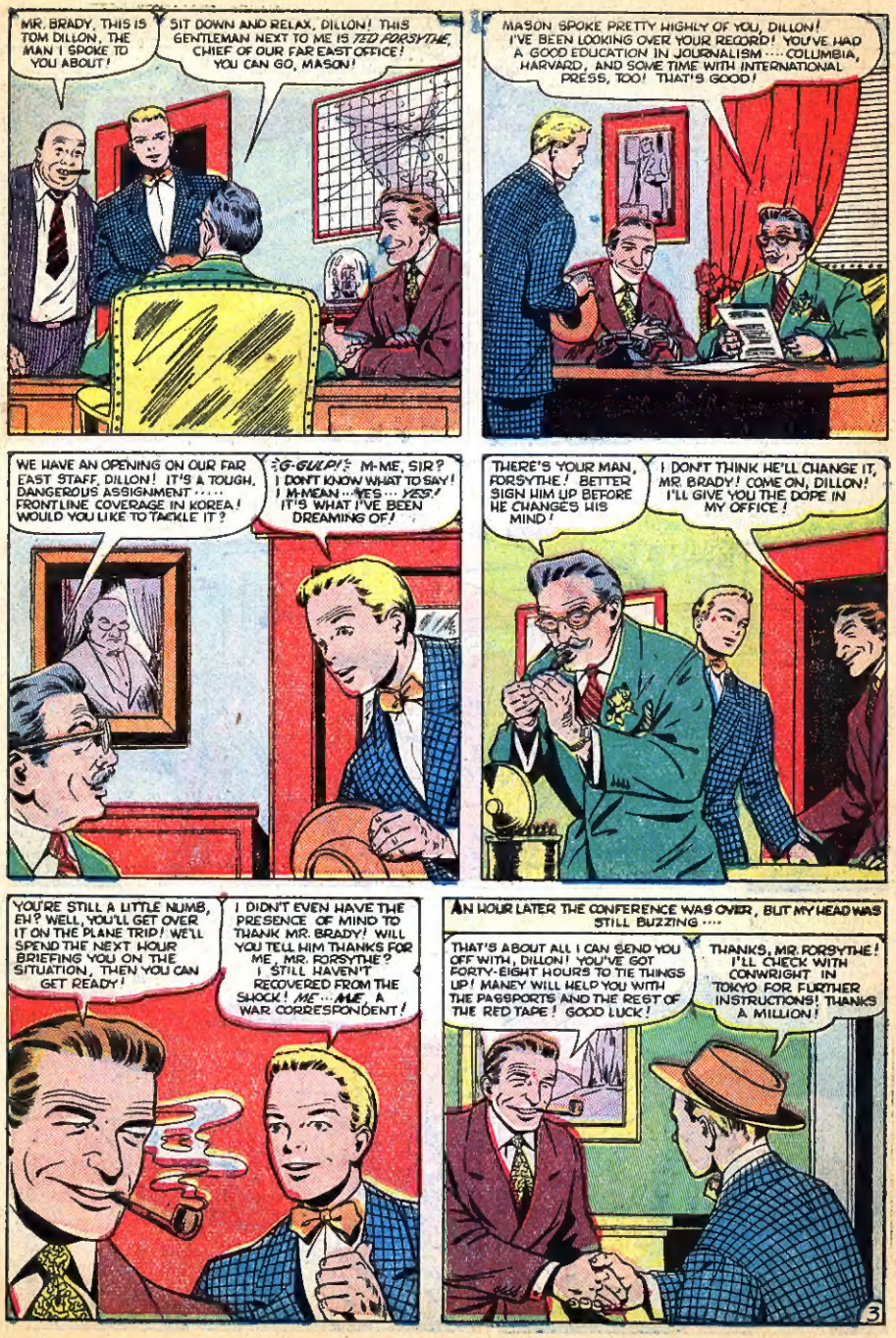
OH, JUST SMALL FRY STUFF ··· LOCAL TEAR JERKERS, HUMAN INTEREST, AND AN OCCASIONAL MURDER! I'M ITCHING TO GET MY HANDS ON A FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT, BUT SO FAR NO SOAP!

H-HOW WAS IT OVER THERE, MR. GILMAN? I M-MEAN IN KOREA! I NEVER MISS ONE OF YOUR DATELINES! YOU DO A TERRIFIC STORY!

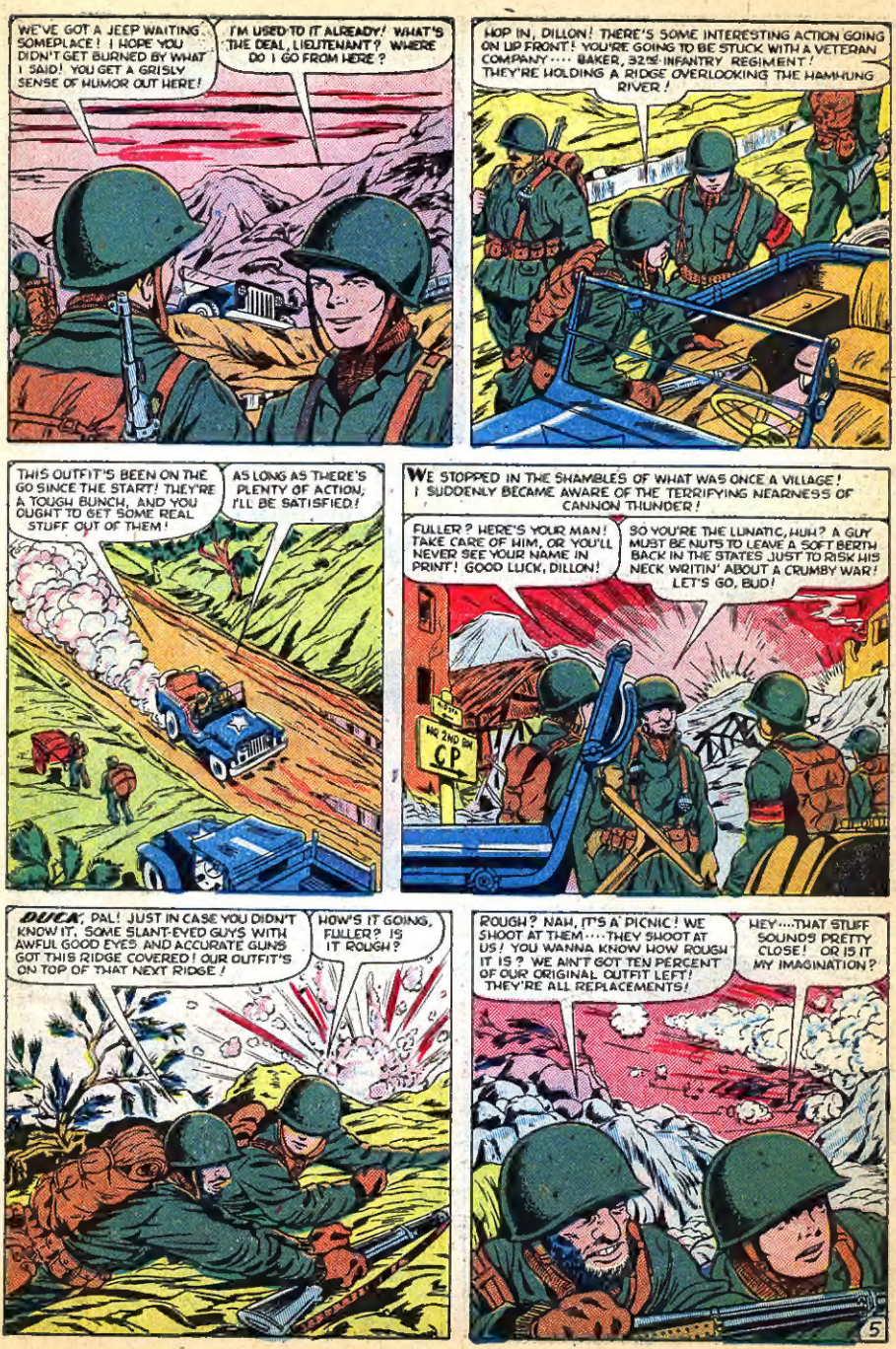
WELL, STOP SCRAPING YOUR FOREHEAD! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HOW WAS IT? YOU MEAN THE SLAUGHTER OF MEN ··· THEIRS AND OURS? YOU MEAN THE DEVASTATION OF A COUNTRY, OR THE LIFE OF A WAR CORRESPONDENT?

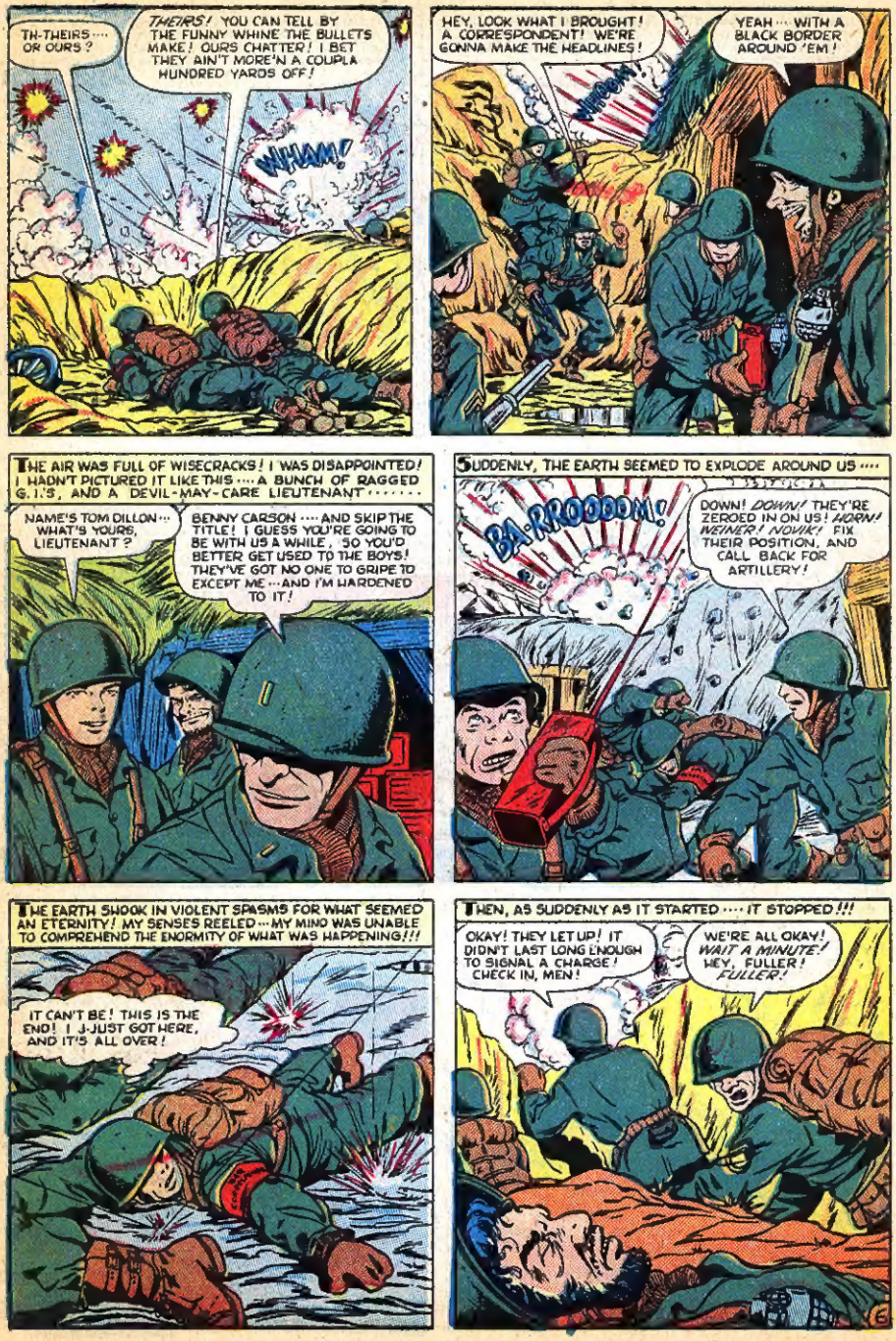
ALL NAMES AND PLACES IN THESE TRUE-TO-LIFE STORIES ARE FICTITIOUS
ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THESE STORIES IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

WELL, THAT'S JUST PERSONAL STUFF! I GUESS A CORRESPONDENT IS SUPPOSED TO BE OBJECTIVE ABOUT SLAUGHTER AND DEVASTATION! WHAT I MEAN IS, HOW ARE THOSE TREMENDOUS CHARGES WITH TANKS, ARTILLERY, AND INFANTRY?
OH, I SEE! YOU MEAN THE BLOODCURDLING GLORY.... THE BATTALION FLAGS WAVING—THE SKIES FILLED WITH COVERING PLANES! I'LL TRY TO TELL YOU, DILLON!
I CRINGED INSIDE WHEN HE TALKED! HIS COLD EYES SUDDENLY GLINTED WITH BITTERNESS AND CONTEMPT....
SURE, WE'VE GOT TO BE OBJECTIVE! THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER DOESN'T MEAN A THING, DILLON! IT'S THE BATTLE THAT COUNTS! THE MUD AND MISERY, THE PAIN AND BLOOD IS ALL JUST HOGWASH!
AND SUDDENLY I HATED GILMAN, BECAUSE I KNEW HIS CONTEMPT AND SARCASM WAS BEING HEAPED ON MYSELF....
IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL.... HUMANITY BLEEDING AND CRYING! IT'S LIKE THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.... ALL GLORY AND THRILLS! YOU'LL LOVE IT IF YOU EVER GET ACROSS, DILLON! IT'S MADE TO ORDER FOR GUYS LIKE YOU!
HE WAS GONE, AND SOMEBODY WAS TUGGING AT MY SLEEVE....
HEY, WAKE UP! WIPE THE SUDS OFF YOUR EARS! THE BOSS WANTS TO SEE YOU IN A HURRY, TOM! SOMETHIN' BIG IS HAPPENIN' TOPSIDE!
OKAY—OKAY! I WONDER WHAT'S EATING HIM UP? HMM, JUST A BIG SHOT GONE SOUR ON HIS ASSIGNMENT!
YOU'D MISS THE LAST FERRY TO PARADISE, DILLON! YOU EVER HEAR OF MR. DANIEL BRADY, DILLON? HE'S OUR BOSS! HE PAYS US BOTH! HE WANTS TO SEE YOU! HE OWNS THIS NEWSPAPER, DILLON!
SKIP THE BACKGROUND, ROY! I KNOW ALL ABOUT OUR DEAR BOSS! AM I FIRED?
TALK NICE TO HIM, DILLON! HE DOESN'T ABSORB ABUSE LIKE I DO! TRY TO LOOK INTELLIGENT! THIS IS IMPORTANT!
I CAN IMAGINE! WHAT DOES HE WANT, A SPECIAL STORY ON WHO STOLE THE PICKLES FROM HOSENPFEFFER'S DELICATESSEN?
2


MR. BRADY, THIS IS TOM DILLON, THE MAN I SPOKE TO YOU ABOUT!
SIT DOWN AND RELAX, DILLON! THIS GENTLEMAN NEXT TO ME IS TED FORSYTHE, CHIEF OF OUR FAR EAST OFFICE! YOU CAN GO, MASON!
MASON SPOKE PRETTY HIGHLY OF YOU, DILLON! I'VE BEEN LOOKING OVER YOUR RECORD! YOU'VE HAD A GOOD EDUCATION IN JOURNALISM ···· COLUMBIA, HARVARD, AND SOME TIME WITH INTERNATIONAL PRESS, TOO! THAT'S GOOD!
WE HAVE AN OPENING ON OUR FAR EAST STAFF, DILLON! IT'S A TOUGH, DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT ····· FRONTLINE COVERAGE IN KOREA! WOULD YOU LIKE TO TACKLE IT?
G-GULP! M-ME, SIR? I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! I MEAN··· YES··· YES! IT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF!
THERE'S YOUR MAN, FORSYTHE! BETTER SIGN HIM UP BEFORE HE CHANGES HIS MIND!
I DON'T THINK HE'LL CHANGE IT, MR. BRADY! COME ON, DILLON! I'LL GIVE YOU THE DOPE IN MY OFFICE!
YOU'RE STILL A LITTLE NUMB, EH? WELL, YOU'LL GET OVER IT ON THE PLANE TRIP! WE'LL SPEND THE NEXT HOUR BRIEFING YOU ON THE SITUATION, THEN YOU CAN GET READY!
I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE PRESENCE OF MIND TO THANK MR. BRADY! WILL YOU TELL HIM THANKS FOR ME, MR. FORSYTHE? I STILL HAVEN'T RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK! ME··· ME A WAR CORRESPONDENT!
AN HOUR LATER THE CONFERENCE WAS OVER, BUT MY HEAD WAS STILL BUZZING ····
THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN SEND YOU OFF WITH, DILLON! YOU'VE GOT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS TO TIE THINGS UP! MANEY WILL HELP YOU WITH THE PASSPORTS AND THE REST OF THE RED TAPE! GOOD LUCK!
THANKS, MR. FORSYTHE! I'LL CHECK WITH CONWRIGHT IN TOKYO FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS! THANKS A MILLION!

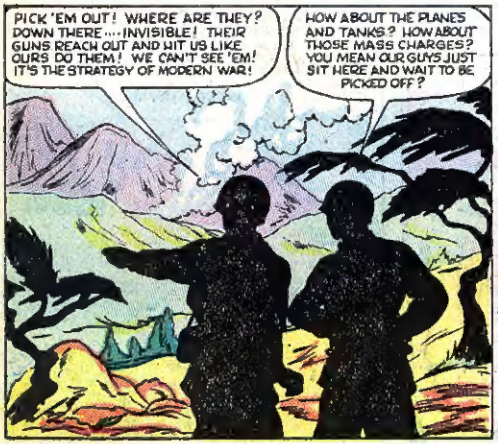
THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED! IT WAS BOILING OVER IN MY MIND WHILE THE PLANE CIRCLED OVER HANEDA AIRPORT AT TOKYO....
MY NAME UNDER THE DATELINE....THOMAS DILLON, SPECIAL WAR CORRESPONDENT FOR THE CLARION! I'LL MAKE THE DISPATCHES GOOD! I'LL MAKE THEM SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE BACK HOME!
SIT DOWN, DILLON! YOU'LL BE LEAVING FOR KOREA BY MORNING! I BET THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT JIMMY ANDERSON, THE GUY YOU'RE REPLACING! HE FELL APART....NERVES SHOT! HE'S IN THE LOCAL HOSPITAL!
INTERNATIONAL PRESS
NO, THEY DIDN'T TELL ME THAT! IT WON'T GET ME THAT WAY, CONWRIGHT! WHAT'S THE DOPE ON THE RELEASES?
FLIP THROUGH THOSE, AND YOU'LL GET THE IDEA! WHEN THE STUFF PASSES CENSORSHIP, I GET IT AND CUT IT UP FOR HOME CONSUMPTION! SOME OF THIS IS ANDERSON'S....STRAIGHT FROM THE WIRE! THE REST IS WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE AFTER THE BRASS AND I GOT THROUGH WITH IT!
TAKE IT BACK TO YOUR HOTEL AND READ IT! I'LL WIRE INSTRUCTIONS TO YOU WHEN YOU GET ACROSS! THE BOYS THERE WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET AROUND! IN GENERAL, EVERYBODY'S PRETTY HELPFUL!
YOU THINK I'LL HAVE TIME TO CHANGE MY SHIRT? I GUESS NOT, HUH?
DON'T TAKE ANY CRAZY CHANCES, DILLON! YOU'LL LAST LONGER! GET PLENTY OF COLOR....LOTS OF ACTION AND HIP-HIP HURRAH!
YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU ORDER! I CAN'T WAIT TO COVER ONE OF THOSE BIG CHARGES! GO EASY ON MY STUFF WITH THE BLUE PENCIL!
ALL THAT WAS BEHIND ME NOW! I WAS FRESH AND EAGER, AND THE AWFUL MUD AND CONFUSION OF KOREA ONLY SERVED TO PUT AN EDGE ON MY APPETITE FOR COMBAT....
HEY, YOU GUYS! WHERE'S THAT CORRESPONDENT WE'RE EXPECTING? WAS HE A NERVES CASUALTY ALREADY?
I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, LIEUTENANT, BUT I'M HERE!


WE'VE GOT A JEEP WAITING SOMEPLACE! I HOPE YOU DIDN'T GET BURNED BY WHAT I SAID! YOU GET A GRISLY SENSE OF HUMOR OUT HERE!
I'M USED TO IT ALREADY! WHAT'S THE DEAL, LIEUTENANT? WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?
HOP IN, DILLON! THERE'S SOME INTERESTING ACTION GOING ON UP FRONT! YOU'RE GOING TO BE STUCK WITH A VETERAN COMPANY.... BAKER, 32ND INFANTRY REGIMENT! THEY'RE HOLDING A RIDGE OVERLOOKING THE HAMHUNG RIVER!
THIS OUTFIT'S BEEN ON THE GO SINCE THE START! THEY'RE A TOUGH BUNCH, AND YOU OUGHT TO GET SOME REAL STUFF OUT OF THEM!
AS LONG AS THERE'S PLENTY OF ACTION, I'LL BE SATISFIED!
WE STOPPED IN THE SHAMBLES OF WHAT WAS ONCE A VILLAGE! I SUDDENLY BECAME AWARE OF THE TERRIFYING NEARNESS OF CANNON THUNDER!
FULLER? HERE'S YOUR MAN! TAKE CARE OF HIM, OR YOU'LL NEVER SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT! GOOD LUCK, DILLON!
SO YOU'RE THE LUNATIC, HUH? A GUY MUST BE NUTS TO LEAVE A SOFT BERTH BACK IN THE STATES JUST TO RISK HIS NECK WRITIN' ABOUT A CRUMBY WAR! LET'S GO, BUD!
HQ 2ND BN
CP
DUCK, PAL! JUST IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT, SOME SLANT-EYED GUYS WITH AWFUL GOOD EYES AND ACCURATE GUNS GOT THIS RIDGE COVERED! OUR OUTFIT'S ON TOP OF THAT NEXT RIDGE!
HOW'S IT GOING, FULLER? IS IT ROUGH?
ROUGH? NAH, IT'S A PICNIC! WE SHOOT AT THEM.... THEY SHOOT AT US! YOU WANNA KNOW HOW ROUGH IT IS? WE AIN'T GOT TEN PERCENT OF OUR ORIGINAL OUTFIT LEFT! THEY'RE ALL REPLACEMENTS!
HEY.... THAT STUFF SOUNDS PRETTY CLOSE! OR IS IT MY IMAGINATION?
5

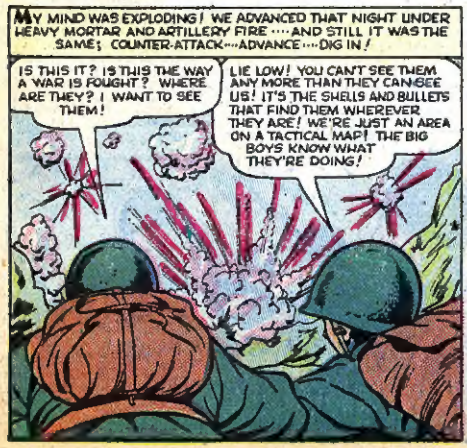

TH-THEIRS.... OR OURS?
THEIRS! YOU CAN TELL BY THE FUNNY WHINE THE BULLETS MAKE! OURS CHATTER! I BET THEY AIN'T MORE'N A COUPLA HUNDRED YARDS OFF!
WHAM!
HEY, LOOK WHAT I BROUGHT! A CORRESPONDENT! WE'RE GONNA MAKE THE HEADLINES!
WHOOM!
YEAH.... WITH A BLACK BORDER AROUND 'EM!
THE AIR WAS FULL OF WISECRACKS! I WAS DISAPPOINTED! I HADN'T PICTURED IT LIKE THIS.... A BUNCH OF RAGGED G.I.'S, AND A DEVIL-MAY-CARE LIEUTENANT.....
NAME'S TOM DILLON... WHAT'S YOURS, LIEUTENANT?
BENNY CARSON.... AND SKIP THE TITLE! I GUESS YOU'RE GOING TO BE WITH US A WHILE, SO YOU'D BETTER GET USED TO THE BOYS! THEY'VE GOT NO ONE TO GRIPE TO EXCEPT ME... AND I'M HARDENED TO IT!
SUDDENLY, THE EARTH SEEMED TO EXPLODE AROUND US....
BA-ROOOOOM!
DOWN! DOWN! THEY'RE ZEROED IN ON US! MORM! WEMER! MOWK! FIX THEIR POSITION, AND CALL BACK FOR ARTILLERY!
THE EARTH SHOOK IN VIOLENT SPASMS FOR WHAT SEEMED AN ETERNITY! MY SENSES REELED... MY MIND WAS UNABLE TO COMPREHEND THE ENORMITY OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING!!!
IT CAN'T BE! THIS IS THE END! I J-JUST GOT HERE, AND IT'S ALL OVER!
THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS IT STARTED.... IT STOPPED!!!
OKAY! THEY LET UP! IT DIDN'T LAST LONG ENOUGH TO SIGNAL A CHARGE! CHECK IN, MEN!
WE'RE ALL OKAY! WAIT A MINUTE! HEY, FULLER! FULLER!
6

HE WAS DEAD! THE MAN I SPOKE TO MINUTES AGO WAS DEAD....
IT'S FULLER...THE JOE WHO GUIDED ME HERE! IS—IS HE....??
YEAH...HE GOT IT! SHRAPNEL! TAKE HIM OUT, MEN! WHAT'S A FELLA SUPPOSED TO SAY? ALL THE WAY FROM PUSAN HE WAS WITH US! NOW HE'S GONE! THAT'S THE WAY IT IS! FIRST HIM, THEN MAYBE ONE OF US... OR ALL OF US!!!

IT HAPPENS JUST LIKE THIS? WHERE ARE THEY? WHY DON'T WE SHOOT BACK? WHY DON'T WE CHARGE? WHERE ARE THE PLANES AND THE ARTILLERY? WHERE'S THE SUPPORT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE?
TAKE IT EASY, DILLON! MAYBE THIS WILL BE AN EDUCATION TO YOU! YOU'RE A WRITER...YOU CAN MAKE WORDS SOUND REAL! MAYBE YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT BETTER! YEAH, THIS IS THE WAY IT ALWAYS IS!


PICK 'EM OUT! WHERE ARE THEY? DOWN THERE...INVISIBLE! THEIR GUNS REACH OUT AND HIT US LIKE OURS DO THEM! WE CAN'T SEE 'EM! IT'S THE STRATEGY OF MODERN WAR!
HOW ABOUT THE PLANES AND TANKS? HOW ABOUT THOSE MASS CHARGES? YOU MEAN OUR GUYS JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT TO BE PICKED OFF?

YOU GOT A BALLED-UP NOTION OF WHAT WAR IS, DILLON! SOMETIMES THEY CHARGE, AND SOMETIMES WE DO! MOST OF THE TIME IT'S THE BIG GUNS AND PLANES THAT RIP THEM OUT OF THEIR HIDING PLACES! ALL WE DO IS KEEP 'EM BACK, OR GO FORWARD TO ANOTHER POSITION LIKE THIS!


MY MIND WAS EXPLODING! WE ADVANCED THAT NIGHT UNDER HEAVY MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE....AND STILL IT WAS THE SAME; COUNTER-ATTACK...ADVANCE....DIG IN!
IS THIS IT? IS THIS THE WAY A WAR IS FOUGHT? WHERE ARE THEY? I WANT TO SEE THEM!
LIE LOW! YOU CAN'T SEE THEM ANY MORE THAN THEY CAN SEE US! IT'S THE SHELLS AND BULLETS THAT FIND THEM WHEREVER THEY ARE! WE'RE JUST AN AREA ON A TACTICAL MAP! THE BIG BOYS KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!

WE TOOK THE POSITION AT DAWN! I BEGAN TO REALIZE THE UTTER HORROR OF THE MOVEMENT!
H-HOW MANY DID WE LOSE, BENNY?
CAN'T TELL YET! WE'LL HANG ON HERE UNTIL WE GET ORDERS TO MOVE AGAIN! IF THEY TRY A CHARGE ACROSS THIS SHALLOW RIVER, MAYBE YOU'LL GET TO SEE THEM....BUT IT WON'T BE PRETTY!

MY ILLUSIONS ABOUT WAR AND GLORY VANISHED AS I STARED AT THE DULL, BATTLE-WEARY FACES ABOUT ME .... MEN DEADENED AND CRUSHED BY THE VASTNESS OF THE TERROR ABOUT THEM ....
I'LL STAY WITH THESE BOYS! I'LL GET TO KNOW EACH OF THEM PERSONALLY .... THEIR LIVES, THEIR THOUGHTS! I'LL WRITE A REAL WAR STORY .... A STORY ABOUT THE LITTLE G.I. JOES WHO FIGHT AND DIE!

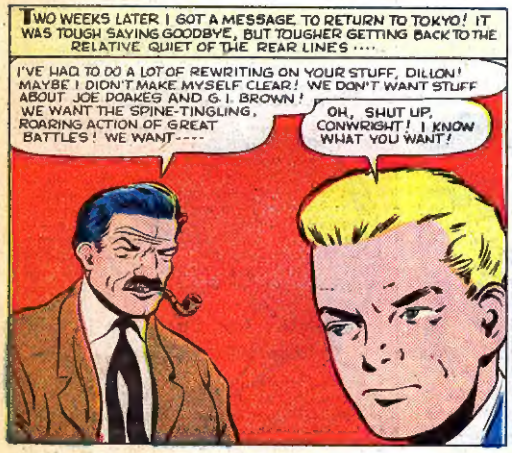
THE DAYS THUNDERED BY .... HERE AN OLD FACE DISAPPEARED, THERE A NEW ONE ARRIVED .... AND STILL WE WENT FORWARD -- SURROUNDED BY VIOLENCE!

I WROTE ABOUT SGT. JONES, HARRY WEINER, BILLY HORN, LIEUTENANT CARSON ....

I WROTE ABOUT THE HEARTS AND THOUGHTS OF THESE LONESOME MEN, ENVELOPED IN A GIGANTIC STRUGGLE!

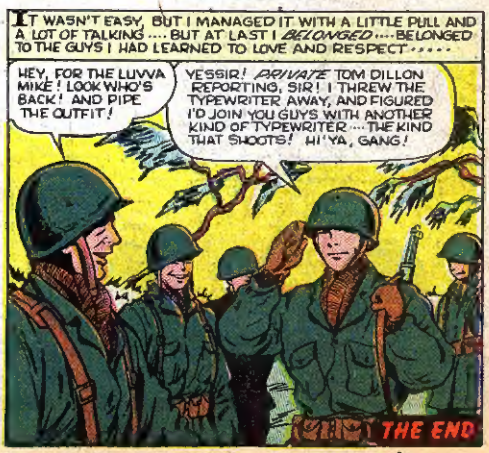
THERE WAS NO GLORY HERE .... NO HIP-HIP-HURRAH! THERE WAS NOTHING ABOUT GREAT TANK BATTLES, TRIUMPHANT CHARGES, AND MASS BRAVERY! IN WAR THOSE THINGS DON'T EXIST! IN WAR THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY MATTERS IS THE HEART OF THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER!

NOW I UNDERSTOOD ED GILMAN, AND I FELT ASHAMED OF MYSELF!


TWO WEEKS LATER I GOT A MESSAGE TO RETURN TO TOKYO! IT WAS TOUGH SAYING GOODBYE, BUT TOUGHER GETTING BACK TO THE RELATIVE QUIET OF THE REAR LINES ....
I'VE HAD TO DO A LOT OF REWRITING ON YOUR STUFF, DILLON! MAYBE I DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR! WE DON'T WANT STUFF ABOUT JOE DOAKES AND G.I. BROWN! WE WANT THE SPINE-TINGLING, ROARING ACTION OF GREAT BATTLES! WE WANT----
OH, SHUT UP, CONWRIGHT! I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT!

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, BUT IT DOESN'T EXIST! YOU WANT THE WAR PORTRAYED AS A GLORIOUS BATTLE! WELL—IT ISN'T! YOU, AND OTHER GUYS LIKE YOU, OUGHT TO GET UP FRONT AND SEE WHAT OUR MEN ARE REALLY LIKE! IT'S THE JOE DOAKESES AND G.I. BROWNS WHO REALLY MATTER! NOT YOUR CRUMBY IDEAS!

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HEADLINES .... NOT REAL STORIES! YOU'VE GOT HOLLYWOOD IDEAS ABOUT WAR, AND YOU BETTER GET RID OF THEM! THIS WAR IS GOING TO BE WON BY THE JOE DOAKESES -- NOT BY TANKS AND PLANES .... BUT BY THE GUYS IN THOSE TANKS AND PLANES! YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE? I'M GOING BACK UP FRONT AGAIN .... BUT NOT FOR YOU! FOR THEM!


IT WASN'T EASY, BUT I MANAGED IT WITH A LITTLE PULL AND A LOT OF TALKING .... BUT AT LAST I BELONGED .... BELONGED TO THE GUYS I HAD LEARNED TO LOVE AND RESPECT .....
HEY, FOR THE LUVVA MIKE! LOOK WHO'S BACK! AND PIPE THE OUTFIT!
YESSIR! PRIVATE TOM DILLON REPORTING, SIR! I THREW THE TYPEWRITER AWAY, AND FIGURED I'D JOIN YOU GUYS WITH ANOTHER KIND OF TYPEWRITER .... THE KIND THAT SHOOTS! HI'YA, GANG!
THE END

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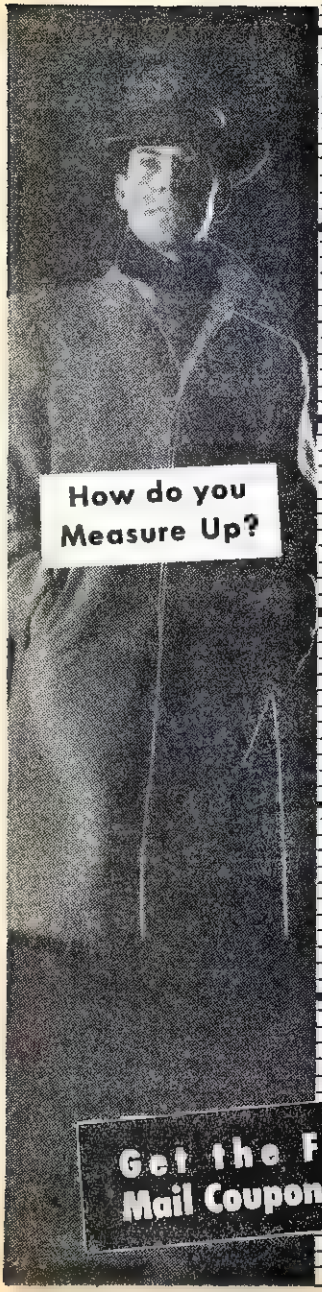

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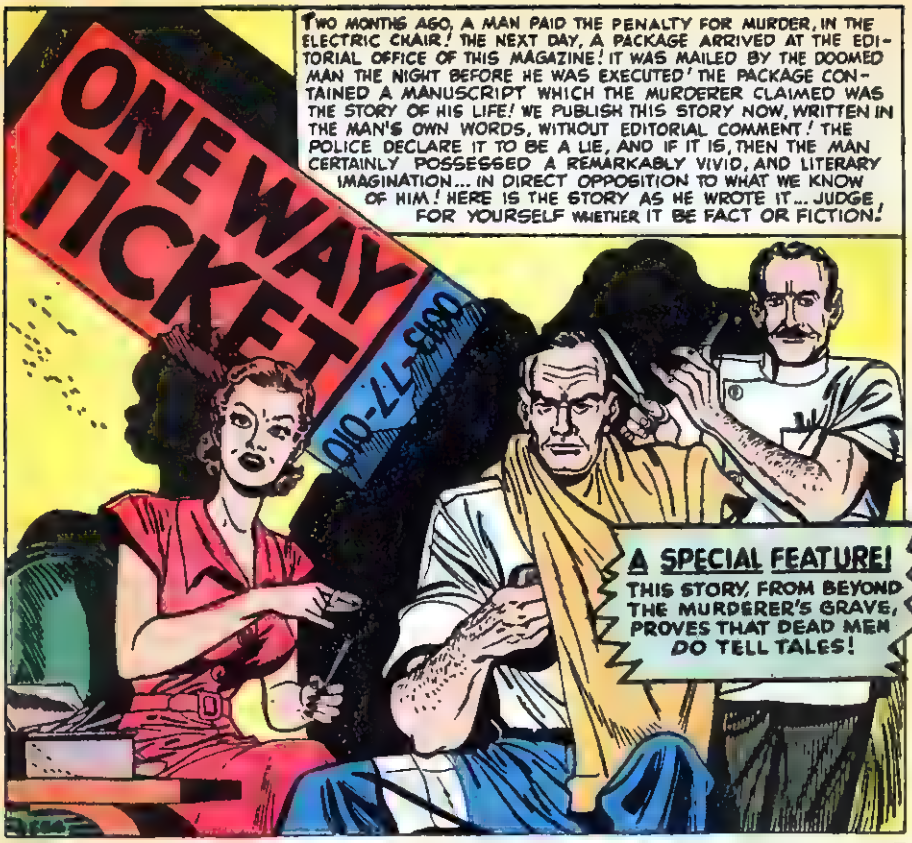
City..... State..... Age.....


ONE WAY TICKET
COPS 77-010
TWO MONTHS AGO, A MAN PAID THE PENALTY FOR MURDER, IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR! THE NEXT DAY, A PACKAGE ARRIVED AT THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF THIS MAGAZINE! IT WAS MAILED BY THE DOOMED MAN THE NIGHT BEFORE HE WAS EXECUTED! THE PACKAGE CONTAINED A MANUSCRIPT WHICH THE MURDERER CLAIMED WAS THE STORY OF HIS LIFE! WE PUBLISH THIS STORY NOW, WRITTEN IN THE MAN'S OWN WORDS, WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT! THE POLICE DECLARE IT TO BE A LIE, AND IF IT IS, THEN THE MAN CERTAINLY POSSESSED A REMARKABLY VIVID, AND LITERARY IMAGINATION... IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO WHAT WE KNOW OF HIM! HERE IS THE STORY AS HE WROTE IT... JUDGE FOR YOURSELF WHETHER IT BE FACT OR FICTION!
A SPECIAL FEATURE!
THIS STORY, FROM BEYOND THE MURDERER'S GRAVE, PROVES THAT DEAD MEN DO TELL TALES!

MY NAME IS, HARRY "BOSS" CHANEY.. NOT NICK STELLANIC, LIKE THE COPS CLAIM! I'M THE GUY THEY LABELLED THE BIG TIME RACKET KING! THERE WASN'T A CAPER OR A RACKET IN THE EAST THAT I DIDN'T HAVE A FINGER IN!
HI, BOSS!
CHICO, I'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR YOU! O.K., JOE, BEAT IT... YOU AN' THE DOLL!
SURE, MR. CHANEY!

THE BARBER AND THE MANICURIST LEFT, AND CHICO MONTANA OPENED THE BLACK BAG...
A NICE TAKE ON THE NUMBERS, BOSS... 45,000 GEES!
CHICO, YOU'VE BEEN WITH ME FROM THE BEGINNING... FROM THE TIME I CAME UP FROM THE GUTTER, A DIRTY-NOSED, YOUNG PUNK, UNTIL I TOOK OVER THE BIG TIME! I TRUST YOU, CHICO, SO I'M GONNA TALK TO YOU!

SPILL IT, BOSS! WHAT'S EATIN' YUH?
CHICO, YOU KNOW WHERE I CAME FROM... THE SLUMS...NO MONEY, NO EDUCATION! I BECAME A CHEAP HOOD...CAME UP THE HARD WAY, STEPPIN' ON ANYBODY IN FRONT OF ME, UNTIL I REACHED THE TOP. BIG WHEEL IN THE BIGGEST CRIME SYNDICATE ANYBODY EVER THOUGHT OF!
THAT'S RIGHT, BOSS! YOU BEEN WHAT THE PAPERS CALL "RUTHLESS"! BUT WHAT'S THE BEEF? YOU'RE SWIMMIN' IN DOUGH NOW...YOU AIN'T GOT NO WORRIES!
THAT'S JUST THE POINT, CHICO! I'VE GOT PLENTY OF WORRIES...AND I'M AFRAID, TOO, CHICO!
AW, YOU'RE KIDDIN'!
NO! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HAUNTED BY THE FEAR THAT SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN AND I'LL BECOME POOR AGAIN! THE COPS AN' FEDERAL OFFICERS ARE ALWAYS BREATHIN' DOWN MY NECK! I'M LOADED WITH MONEY AN' CAN'T GET ANY GOOD OUT OF IT!
CHICO, I'M GOIN' TO RETIRE FROM THIS BUSINESS! I'M GONNA GO SOUTH, AN' TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF DYIN' TOO DYIN' BEFORE I CAN GET ANY GOOD OUT OF MY DOUGH! THAT'S WHY I'M GOIN' TO QUIT!
I GOT NEWS FOR YUH, BOSS...!
A GUY DON'T QUIT IN OUR RACKET! IF HE TRIES TO, HE GETS RUBBED OUT. UNLESS THE COPS GET HIM FIRST, AFTER SOME LITTLE STOOL-PIGEON, WHO AIN'T AFRAID OF HIM ANY MORE NOW THAT HE'S NOT TOP DOG, SQUEALS TO THE POLICE! TAKE YOUR PICK...STICK, AN' BE A BIG SHOT, OR GET BLASTED BY THE MOB OR THE COPS! IT'S A ONE WAY TICKET, BELIEVE ME!
I SAT THERE AFTER CHICO HAD GONE, DRINKING IN THE BITTER TRUTH OF WHAT HE HAD SAID! I WAS A MAN HAG-RIDDEN BY FEAR. FEAR OF POVERTY.. FEAR OF DYING...AND FEAR OF LIVING!
THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT! I'VE GOTTA THINK. FIND AN ANGLE!
IF I COULD FIND SOMEBODY WHO LOOKS LIKE ME. MAYBE MAKE BELIEVE I WAS DEAD, AND MEANWHILE HIDE MY DOUGH WHERE I COULD GET IT AFTERWARD! YEAH, THAT'S IT.. THAT'S THE CAPER! I'LL FOOL THEM ALL, YET I'LL LIVE LIKE I WANTA LIVE...UNDER ANOTHER MAN'S NAME, AN' WITH MY OWN DOUGH! I'LL GO SOUTH AN' ENJOY MYSELF... A NEW MAN, A NEW LIFE!

I BEGAN TO PUT MY SCHEME INTO OPERATION RIGHT AWAY! BIT BY BIT I COLLECTED ALL THE MONEY I HAD STASHED AWAY IN VARIOUS PLACES AN' HID IT IN MY APARTMENT!
THAT'S THE LAST OF IT! $8,000,000 TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE WITH!
NOW I'VE GOTTA FIND SOME CLOTHES THAT AIN'T TOO EXPENSIVE LOOKIN'! THIS OLD BROWN SUIT SHOULD DO... AN' THOSE BROWN SHOES!
NOW CAME THE SECOND PART OF MY SCHEME... THE HARDEST PART OF ALL... TO FIND A MAN WHO LOOKED SOMEWHAT LIKE ME, AN' HAD NO CLOSE FRIENDS OR RELATIONS!
THIS GUY WOULD DO... IF HE MEETS THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS!
HI, MARY!
HELLO, DADDY!
MARRIED, AND KIDS... HE'S NO GOOD TO ME!
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, I PROWLED THE STREETS, LOOKING FOR MEN WITH MY BUILD, MY WEIGHT, MY COLOR HAIR AND EYES! THE ONES I COULD USE ALL HAD FAMILIES OR CLOSE FRIENDS! WEEKS PASSED, AND I WAS GETTING DESPERATE!
THERE'S ONE WHO WOULD BE PERFECT! I'LL FOLLOW HIM, AND HOPE HE HASN'T ANY LOVIN' FAMILY!
THE MAN WENT INTO A RUN DOWN ROOMING HOUSE, AN' I FOLLOWED HIM IN!
YOU LOOKIN' FOR A ROOM, DEARIE?
YES! THAT MAN WHO JUST WENT UPSTAIRS... I THINK I KNOW HIS BROTHER!

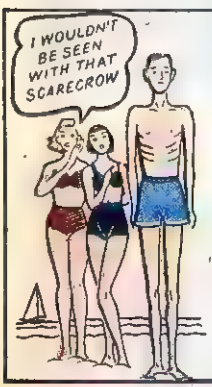
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

SKINNY GIRLS ARE NOT GLAMOUR GIRLS!

HOW TO ADD Glamorous Curves TO YOUR FIGURE

IF you are a normal, healthy underweight person and are ashamed of your skinny, scrawny figure, NUMAL can help you add pounds and pounds of firm, attractive flesh to your figure.

For NUMAL, a doctor-approved formula, contains essential minerals, vitamins and nutrients that may aid your appetite. Then you eat more and enjoy what you eat. But that isn't all. NUMAL contains a food element which is also a great help in putting on weight. So don't let them snicker at your skinny, scrawny figure. A skinny, scarecrow figure is neither fashionable nor glamorous. Remember, the girls with the glamorous curves get the dates. So start NUMAL today. You'll love the taste . . . you'll love the results. SEND NO MONEY. Just your name and address. When postman-delivers NUMAL in plain wrapper, pay him only $2 plus postage and C.O.D. fees. Note: You save all postal charges if you send $2 with order.



SKINNY MEN ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE EITHER

Make no mistake about it—a skinny, scrawny body is no asset in social, business or sports life. So if you are a normal, healthy underweight person, give NUMAL a chance to build you up, put firm flesh on your frame. It's guaranteed—it must help you or your money back. You'll like NUMAL. It tastes good, does good. Order yours today.

USE CONVENIENT COUPON NOW

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

If you aren't pleased with results after using one bottle of NUMAL, you get your money back. Fill in and mail coupon now.

U. S. NATURE PRODUCTS CORP.
3560 Broadway, Dept. 97 E New York 31, N. Y.

SEND NO MONEY! ORDER ON APPROVAL!

These are excerpts from unsolicited and unpaid for testimonials . . .
(Names on request)

"Please send me another bottle of NUMAL — it has helped me wonderfully. I have gained some weight and feel fine now"
Mrs. H. S., Rolla, Mo.

"— made me sleep so much better and it improved my appetite so much"
S. A. L., Sanford, Fla.

"I am so delighted with NUMAL — it has improved me very much — my friends just rave at me"
M. W., Waycross, Ga.

"I am feeling fine and I can now eat three meals a day . . . Before I started taking NUMAL I wasn't eating well at all but now I have a good appetite"
Mrs. M. D. C., Baton Rouge, La.

"I think NUMAL is wonderful! My husband says I look better and I feel better"
Mrs. C. L., Rutland, Vt.

Medically Checked and Approved!

NOTE: The NUMAL formula has been double checked 1st By one of America's foremost research laboratories. 2nd By our Medical Director a well-known New York practicing physician. All medical statements in this ad have also been checked by our own Medical Director for accuracy.

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NOT HIS BROTHER, DEARIE! MR STELLANIC HAS NO KITH NOR KIN... A MAN ALONE IN THE WORLD... AND SUCH A NICE GENTLEMAN, POOR SOUL! FOLLOW ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU A ROOM!
I'M IN LUCK!
I RENTED A ROOM NEXT TO NICK STELLANIC'S, AN' SOON MADE IT MY BUSINESS TO MEET HIM!
HI, NEIGHBOR! BEEN MEANIN' TO INVITE YOU IN FOR A DRINK! HOW ABOUT IT?
WELL... WHY NOT? SURE, I COULD GO FOR A DRINK!
TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, FRIEND! YOU NEW IN THIS TOWN?
NOT EXACTLY! I WAS LIVING ACROSS THE RIVER UNTIL MY WIFE DIED A MONTH AGO! SHE AND I WERE ALONE IN THE WORLD AND WHEN I LOST HER I SORT OF LOST INTEREST IN EVERYTHING!
AS THE DAYS WENT BY WE BECAME FAST FRIENDS! I PUMPED HIM... FOUND OUT EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM! HE WAS PERFECT FOR MY PURPOSE!
NICK, I GOTTA RUN UPTOWN ...A LITTLE BUSINESS MATTER! BUT WHEN I GET BACK I WANT TO TAKE YOU OVER TO SEE A FRIEND OF MINE... A DOCTOR!
ANY FRIEND OF YOURS IS A FRIEND OF MINE!
I TAXIED ACROSS TOWN TO MY APARTMENT! CHICO WAS WAITING FOR ME...
HI, BOSS! YOU'RE GETTIN' TO BE A HARD GUY TO FIND! SOME OF THE BOYS ARE GETTIN' A LITTLE SORE... SAY, YOU AIN'T TENDIN' TO BUSINESS!
LOOK, CHICO, I'M BUSY! BREEZE, WILL YUH... I'LL SEE YUH LATER!
O.K., BOSS, IT'S YOUR FUNERAL! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO BUT YUH BETTER WATCH YOUR STEP! REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT A ONE WAY TICKET!
I'LL REMEMBER, CHICO!
AS SOON AS CHICO WAS GONE I GOT THE MONEY I HAD HIDDEN IN THE FIREPLACE!
DOC BRANDT IS THE GUY TO DO THE JOB I WANT! HE'S A GOOD PLASTIC MAN, AN' HE'S DONE A LOT OF UNDERCOVER WORK FOR THE BOYS! HE'LL COME HIGH, BUT THAT'S THE LEAST OF MY WORRIES!
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL SEE THIS JOINT! BOSS CHANEY IS DEAD! .. LONG LIVE NICK STELLANIC... HA, HA, HA!

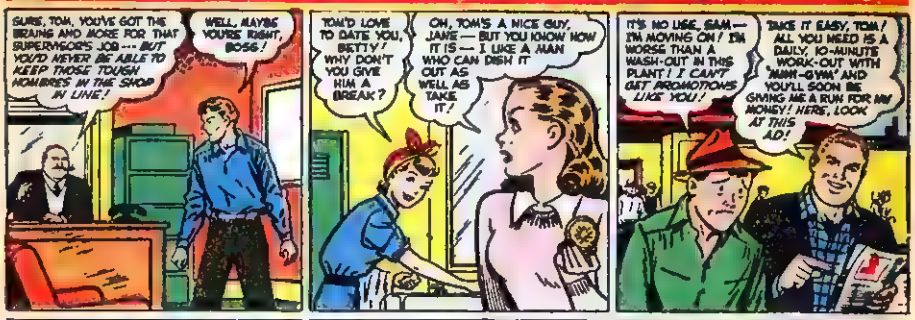
I WENT BACK TO THE ROOMING HOUSE AN' PUT THE MONEY IN A HIDING PLACE I HAD FIXED UP UNDER THE FLOOR!
HEY, HARRY, YOU IN THERE?
JUST GOT BACK, NICK! LET'S GO OVER AN' SEE THAT FRIEND I WAS TELLIN' YOU ABOUT!
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO GET TO DOC BRANDT'S PRIVATE SANITARIUM...
HELLO, DOC!
WELL, WELL, BOSS CHANEY! WHAT DOES A BIG SHOT LIKE YOU WANT WITH AN OLD SAWBONES LIKE ME?
BIG SHOT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
YOU AIN'T NEVER GOIN' TO, NICKEY BOY!
R-S-T
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, BOSS?
DOC, I WANT YOU TO DO A JOB ON ME AN' HIM! MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE ME AN' ME LIKE HIM!
I CAN DO IT ALL RIGHT... YOU'VE PICKED THE RIGHT MAN RIGHT HEIGHT, RIGHT COLOR! BUT IT'LL COST YOU PLENTY, BOSS!
DOC PERFORMED THE OPERATION! THEN CAME THE WEEKS OF WAITING FOR THE SCARS TO HEAL! MEAN'WHILE, DOC KEPT NICK DOPED UP!
WELL, THIS IS THE DAY, BOSS! I'LL UNWIND YOUR BANDAGES IN A MINUTE! INCIDENTALLY, WHEN DO I GET PAID?
RIGHT NOW, DOC... RIGHT NOW!
BOSS... NOOOO... ARGHHH!
YUH DIDN'T THINK I'D LET YUH LIVE SO YOU COULD TALK, DID YUH?

IT'S YOUR TURN, NICK... SO LONG, KID...IT'S BEEN NICE SWAPPIN' NAMES WITH YOU!
BANG
I TORE THE BANDAGES OFF MY FACE AND LOOKED IN THE MIRROR!
PERFECT! PERFECT! DOC WAS GOOD... TOO BAD I HAD TO KILL HIM! NOW I'LL TAKE NICK'S CLOTHES AND LEAVE MINE HERE WITH PLENTY OF IDENTIFICATION, SO THERE'LL BE NO DOUBT THAT BOSS CHANEY IS DEAD!
MY NEXT STOP WAS THE RAILROAD STATION!
GIVE ME A TICKET TO MIAMI! I'M GOIN' DOWN THERE AN' SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE JUST LYIN' AROUND IN THE SUN!
I ENVY YOU, MISTER! HERE YOU ARE!
THEN I HURRIED BACK TO MY ROOM TO GET THE MONEY!
THIS IS THE LAST STEP...THEN NO MORE BEING AFRAID OF ANYBODY... NEVER BROKE AGAIN... HAVE FUN WITH MY DOUGH!
THAT'S NICK STELLANIC... THAT'S HIM!
HEY! WHAT IS THIS?
WE'RE FROM HEADQUARTERS, NICK! YOU THOUGHT YOU GOT AWAY WITH MURDERING YOUR WIFE--BUT WE'VE BEEN ON THE CASE ALL ALONG!
YEAH, WE FOUND THE DRUGGIST WHERE YOU BOUGHT THE POISON -- WE GOT YOU COLD, NICK!
WAIT! YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG! I AIN'T NICK STELLANIC... I'M BOSS CHANEY!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, NICK! BOSS CHANEY WAS FOUND DEAD IN DOC BRANDT'S SANITARIUM A HALF HOUR AGO!
HEY, THE LAMP WENT OVER! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, THIS DUMP WILL GO UP LIKE TINDER!
THEY DRAGGED ME OUT TO THE SIDEWALK! THE HOUSE WAS ALREADY SHEATHED IN FLAMES!
I TELL YUH I'M BOSS CHANEY! I GOT $8,000,000 HIDDEN IN THERE! LET ME GO!
YOU AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE...EXCEPT TO THE CHAIR!
ONE WAY TICKET
MIAMI FLORIDA
BEACH
THE END

SUBSCRIBE NOW! $1.20 FOR NEXT 12 ISSUES!

MEN'S ADVENTURES SEPT. 1954
264 5TH AVE. NEW YORK CITY 10

HOW 'MINI-GYM' TURNS PLANT "DRIP" INTO SUCCESS DYNAMO


SURE, TOM, YOU'VE GOT THE BRAINS AND MORE FOR THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB — BUT YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE TOUGH HOMBRES IN THE SHOP IN LINE!
WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BOSS!
TOM'D LOVE TO DATE YOU, BETTY! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A BREAK?
OH, TOM'S A NICE GUY, JANE — BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS — I LIKE A MAN WHO CAN DISH IT OUT AS WELL AS TAKE IT!
IT'S NO USE, SAM — I'M MOVING ON! I'M WORSE THAN A WASH-OUT IN THIS PLANT! I CAN'T GET PROMOTIONS LIKE YOU!
TAKE IT EASY, TOM! ALL YOU NEED IS A DAILY, 10-MINUTE WORK-OUT WITH 'MINI-GYM' AND YOU'LL SOON BE GIVING ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY! HERE, LOOK AT THIS AD!

GOSH, SAM, I'M A NEW MAN! AM I GLAD YOU MADE ME CLIP THAT 'MINI-GYM' COUPON! WATCH ME DO JOE BONOMO'S TRICKY EXERCISE 10 AGAIN! IT'S A KILLER-DILLER!
GO TO IT, KID! I ALWAYS KNEW YOU HAD THE STUFF, BUT IT TAKES 'MINI-GYM' TO GIVE A MAN TOP TRAINING!
TWO MONTHS LATER...
NEXT TIME, FELLER, YOU'D BETTER THINK FIRST BEFORE YOU START SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTH AT ME!
OH, TOM, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
HONEST, TOM, I-I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING!
THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB IS YOURS, TOM! AND I DON'T HAVE TO WISH YOU LUCK! YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF INTO A REAL "COMER" WHO MAKES HIS OWN LUCK!
THANKS, BOSS! I'LL MAKE GOOD... AND HOW!

AMBITIOUS MEN OF ALL AGES!

TO GET WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE GET FIT WITH JOE BONOMO'S MAGIC DE-LUXE 'MINI-GYM'!

Formerly $4.95 — Our special Price Only

3.95 complete

Packs All The Punch Of a Big, Expensive Gym, Including . . .
• Rowing Machine • Wall Exerciser • Tension Pulls • Bicycle

Why let the other fellow walk away with the job . . . and girl that should be yours? Life's prime go to the smart men who keeps himself in "prime" physical condition. It's easy with the marvellous, new 'MINI-GYM'. For with this new wonder exerciser, you can . . .

Get A Real Kick Out Of Keeping Fit

Man alive, you haven't really lived 'til you get your eager hands (Yes, and feet, too) into Joe Bonomo's best-all exerciser, the unique, new 'MINI-GYM'! Even though you hated exercise before, with superb 'MINI-GYM' and Joe Bonomo's big, new *personal* instruction book . . . you'll eat it up! Find yourself acting like a kid again . . . and loving it!

See How Fast 'MINI-GYM' Helps Get You Into Real Shape!

You bet, almost before you know it, a daily 10 minutes with 'MINI-GYM' builds you into the kind of real "he man" material boxers want most . . . and girls go for fastest! Can't help but be, for this new "miracle" 'MINI-GYM' is an *all-round, all-over* body conditioner . . . meaning it does a 100% job of building YOU! Toning, strengthening and popping up *every* muscle in your *whole* body!

'MINI GYM'S' Perfected By The Famous JOE BONOMO!

World famous, professional strong man himself, Joe Bonomo knows what it takes to build the physically perfect man! (Yes, and woman too!) And he's put all his first hand knowledge into the design of this terrific new exerciser! So in 'MINI-GYM' you've got *everything* it takes for genuine *professional* body building!

Great For Women, Too! Ideal For Personal Use!

Though 'MINI-GYM' is plenty tough for the professional athlete, it's *very* easy enough to be handled . . . and enjoyed . . . by any teen age girl or small woman. Now come! Because Joe Bonomo designed 'MINI-GYM' for girls and women, too! Especially those who want to develop real pep, alluring curves and a sure, gorgeous figure! No wonder gals everywhere go for 'MINI-GYM' in a big, BIG way!

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Every thrill-packed page written for you by Joe Bonomo, this big, 66-page book, printed in 2 colors, gives you a complete 'MINI-GYM' health course. Far more than an instruction manual, it's an *all-round, all-over* Body Conditioner Course! Complete with 90 especially posed photos, charts, and fun-to-follow text. Sheet 5½" x 8½". YOURS FREE with your 'MINI-GYM'!

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Yes, it means just that! Order your 'MINI-GYM' today. Then test it in every way possible . . . exercise with it and enjoy it for 10 exciting days. If you are not satisfied *in every way* . . . in fact, delighted . . . just return 'MINI-GYM', and your money will be *instantly* refunded! Fair enough, isn't it?

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1841 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y.

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MODEL S
☐ If you are under 5 ft. tall

MODEL M
☐ If you are 5 ft. to 5 ft. 10 in. tall

MODEL L
☐ If you are over 5 ft. 10 in. tall.

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NAME _____
Print Plainly Please
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CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

I enclose $3.95. You pay postage. Same money back guarantee. (Canadian and Foreign Orders, $4.95. Cash with order.)

GOLD-DUST DEATH

THE native boy seemed unaware of the sounds of the jungle as he moved swiftly through the undergrowth, sidestepping creepers and tangled vines and occasionally giving a wide berth to a jungle-snake. He wore only a loin-cloth which sagged from his bony ribs. Across his shoulders he carried a double pouch filled with a yellow dust for which he himself—and all jungle folk for that matter—had no use. Clutched tightly in his right hand was a piece of paper — a message for the white sahibs — and in his left hand he carried his pride and joy.

It was a little metal mirror. And he was constantly overjoyed at his new possession. Every so often he would stop and look into it. He would make faces, and grin to see his white teeth shine back at him from the square silvered surface. It was indeed something wonderful, and where it had at first struck his simple mind with fear it now filled him with infinite awe.

For a while he slowed down. A parakeet called, and its mate answered him; but it was not to this that he listened. Far in the distance he heard sounds that were unnatural to the harmony of the jungle....

* * *

The sounds that had reached the keen ears of the native boy, were human voices. Shouting voices. Arguing voices. John Benson's voice was the loudest; Carl Ford—the skinny youth—had a high whining tone; Kurt Lane's voice was a bass that boomed through his beard. They argued often, and they were arguing now.

They had come this far without their native guide because it was territory they had traversed before. It was marked by slashes on the trees that marked the path from which they had come. Now they were at the edge of this familiar country and they had to wait. From here on there was only a sea of dense vegetation, a maze of trees, vines and dense undergrowth in which strangers might wander helplessly until madness or death by thirst or some animal took over. Only those who knew the tangle of wilderness could reach civilization — Henderson himself, or the native guide.

They mulled around in the clearing. They'd eaten — lightening their loads a bit — and now they were restless to get on to a place where all of their gold would be useful. But they couldn't move another step. They had to wait for Henderson. He was back there somewhere, sick with a kind of fever which he claimed he knew, and which he said was not dangerous. "Go on ahead," he'd told them. "I need several hours rest. I'll send the native boy on after he helps me get set up. He'll tell you when to expect me."

Now they waited for word.

"Blast it!" snapped Benson. "Where's that native boy?"

"I'll bet he doesn't come," said Kurt Lane.

"What do you mean?"

"I mean I've been thinking, and I'll bet that he was afraid we'd get at his share of the gold, if he got any sicker."

They sat around quietly thinking about this thing. Thinking about Henderson who had organied this expedition, who was so unlike the rest of them. They wanted gold, and more gold, and he always talked about how looking for it was more exciting than having it to spend. They didn't like him, but he knew the gold-coast, and he'd organized the expedition.

Kurt Lane spoke again, slowly as if he were weighing his words. "He's plenty sick, and I know a sick man when I see one. He's afraid we'll take his gold away from him, so he's going to get out of here by himself, and leave us to rot."

"And he's got the lion's share. Lots of gold," Benson offered.

Kurt licked his dry lips. "It isn't fair. We did as much work as he did. More. He shouldn't have taken such a large share."

Carl Ford scratched at a mosquito bite on his skinny neck. "I don't know," he mused. "He knew where the stuff was. He planned everything. You have to think of that."

"*You* don't have to bother about thinking. Leave that to people who have brains,"

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

STAMPS

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...CONTINUED

snapped Kurt.

"Yeah," echoed John Benson, "that's right."

"I dunno," said Carl, "that's the way I see things."

They sat there and stared at the darkness that was filling in slowly between the trees. "What if we were to put the poor old guy out of his misery?" blurted Lane. "The way he is now, it would be a mercy killing. And of course we could split his gold three ways."

"Maybe you've got something there," said Benson.

"Who'd do it?" asked Carl Ford, nervous at the thought.

"I would," said Lane, "of course that would entitle me to a larger split — half — you two could divide the other half."

"Nothing doing," snarled Benson. "We've got just as much right. Heck, either me or Ford here could do the job just as well."

"That's right, asserted the skinny youth, backing Benson.

"Tell you what," offered Lane, "let's cut cards for it."

The other two agreed. They would cut to see who would take the job of killing Henderson as he lay on a sickbed. The winner would also be entitled to half the old man's gold. Kurt dug into his bundle and fished out an old worn pack of playing cards. He shuffled them and lay them down on the flat tree stump. They all leaned forward. John Benson cut first. King of Diamonds. Then Carl Ford leaned in and drew. It was the ten of spades. He heaved a sigh as if he were glad it was not up to him, then he leaned back to watch.

Kurt Lane drew and turned his card up to reveal the King of Spades. Instantly Benson leaped to his feet, and his knife was out.

"You're a cheat. That king never came from the deck. I saw you."

The next moment Lane's knife was out and the two of them began to circle each other. They locked and the swearing and gasping for breath filled the air. Lane stepped back as Benson screamed and fell to the ground. He was panting as he spoke:

"Now. I had the high card. I'll kill Henderson and take *two-thirds*." He held the knife in his hand.

Carl Ford said nothing. He

stared past Lane in a strange hypnotized way. Lane repeated his statement, waiting for Ford's response.

"No," said Ford, "I don't think you will." He was staring past the man. And Lane enraged at the words flipped the knife. It found Ford's throat and he crumpled.

Lane smiled, as one does when he has had his own way. He rubbed his hands together and then turned to claim his riches. But the thing that Ford had seen behind him — coiled and ready — moved more swiftly, and struck . . . and slithered away . . .

* * *

After a long time, the native guide came into the clearing. He stared at the three men whose actions he could never hope to understand. He sighed — not that he was sorry for them, for they had never given him things like the nice mirror — and he cut ferns and brush to cover their bodies. He placed their equipment with them, by the bodies, divided equally, and then he took out the gold dust that was in the pouches he carried on his shoulders, and he sprinkled it over them because he knew that they had put such store by this funny yellow little dust.

The piece of paper which he carried in his hand, he placed in the center of the three surface graves. He weighed it down with a stone.

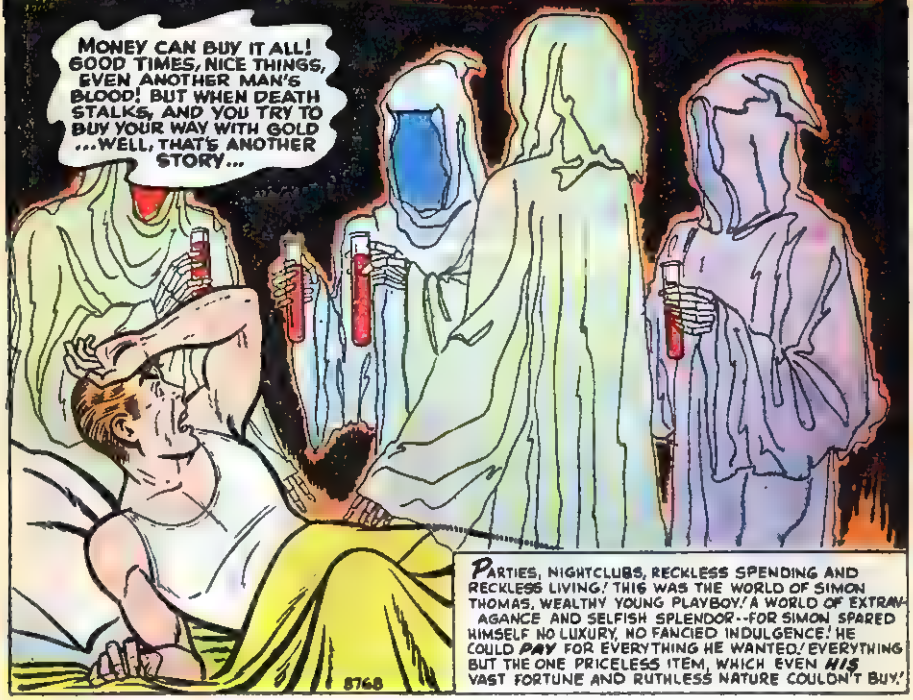
By the time this reaches you, the note read, I will be dead. The native guide will take you out of the jungles to the coast. You may have my gold. Divide it between you. Good luck.

The boy looked around at the job he had done, and was about to leave when he came back. He picked up the scattered deck of cards and set them carefully against the rock which held the paper. This was surely a great god to warrant the enormous blood sacrifice which these men had made. He had watched the strange ceremony from the brush. He bowed to the deck of cards, and touched his head to the ground.

They were not his gods, these cards, but he felt that every man had the right to worship that in which he believes . . .

THE END 8560

SIMON'S BLOOD

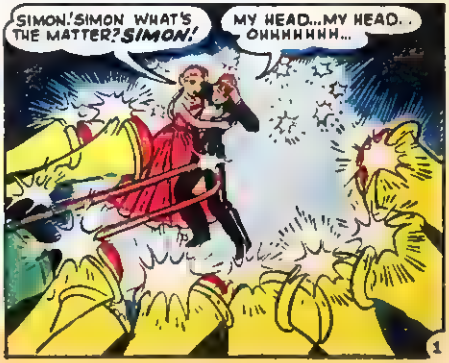

MONEY CAN BUY IT ALL! GOOD TIMES, NICE THINGS, EVEN ANOTHER MAN'S BLOOD! BUT WHEN DEATH STALKS, AND YOU TRY TO BUY YOUR WAY WITH GOLD ...WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY...
8768

PARTIES, NIGHTCLUBS, RECKLESS SPENDING AND RECKLESS LIVING! THIS WAS THE WORLD OF SIMON THOMAS, WEALTHY YOUNG PLAYBOY! A WORLD OF EXTRAVAGANCE AND SELFISH SPLENDOR--FOR SIMON SPARED HIMSELF NO LUXURY, NO FANCIED INDULGENCE! HE COULD ***PAY*** FOR EVERYTHING HE WANTED! EVERYTHING BUT THE ONE PRICELESS ITEM, WHICH EVEN ***HIS*** VAST FORTUNE AND RUTHLESS NATURE COULDN'T BUY!

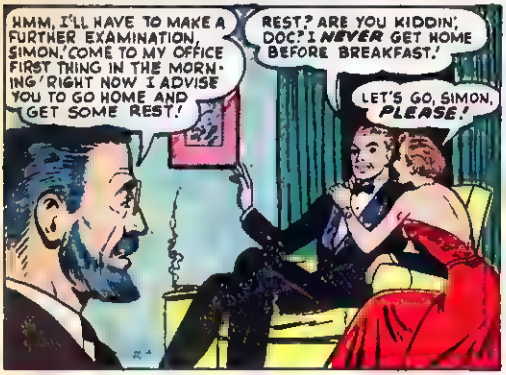
THE NIGHT IT ALL BEGAN, I WAS AT MY USUAL TABLE AT THE CLUB PAREE! NOISY CROWDS, BRASSY BANDS, GLAMOROUS SHOWGIRLS...THIS WAS MY ELEMENT! CHAMPAGNE BUBBLED INTO MY GLASS IN A NEVER ENDING STREAM! EXPENSIVE, BUT TO A MILLIONAIRE LIKE ME, WHAT'S MONEY FOR? ONLY.. ***GOOD TIMES!***

SIMON, PLEASE! YOU'VE EMPTIED FOUR BOTTLES ALREADY! PLEASE STOP!
STOP? DON'T BE SILLY, BABY.. I'VE JUST STARTED! DRINK, DANCE AND BE MERRY FOR TOMORROW..HA, HA, WHO CARES ABOUT TOMORROW? C'MON, LET'S DANCE!

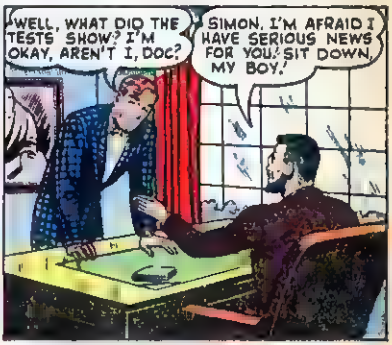
THE HORNS WERE BLARING SOLID JAZZ--JUST THE WAY I LIKED IT! REVELLING IN THE SOLID RHYTHMS, I STARTED TO DANCE! BUT SUDDENLY--THE MUSIC FADED! MY KNEES BUCKLED, AND THE GLITTERING LIGHTS SWIRLED AROUND ME IN A BLINDING PATTERN!

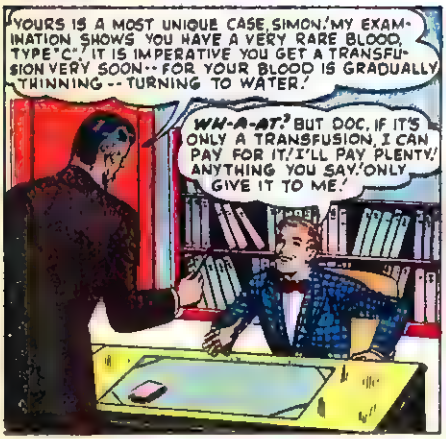


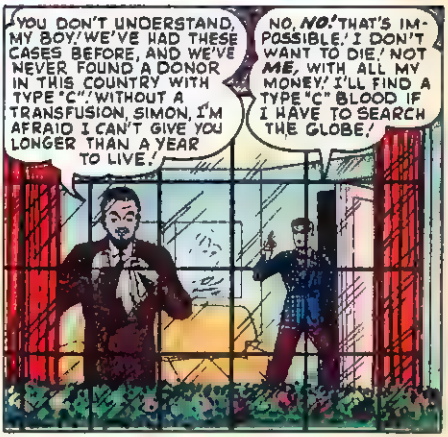
THE GLISTENING DANCE FLOOR SPUN ROUND AND ROUND--THEN CAME UP TO MEET ME.' WHEN I CAME TO, I WAS IN A PRIVATE ANTEROOM; SOMEONE HAD CALLED MY PRIVATE PHYSICIAN, DR. SAMUEL PETERS...


HMM, I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A FURTHER EXAMINATION, SIMON.' COME TO MY OFFICE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.' RIGHT NOW I ADVISE YOU TO GO HOME AND GET SOME REST.'
REST.? ARE YOU KIDDIN', DOC.? I NEVER GET HOME BEFORE BREAKFAST.'
LET'S GO, SIMON, PLEASE.'

JUST A DIZZY SPELL, I THOUGHT, WHEN I GOT HOME.' WHY WAS DOC MAKING SUCH A FUSS? BUT STILL--? I WONDERED.' COULD ANYTHING BE WRONG? I WAS ENJOYING LIFE TOO MUCH TO HAVE ANYTHING SPOIL MY FUN.' NO. I COULDN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES.'

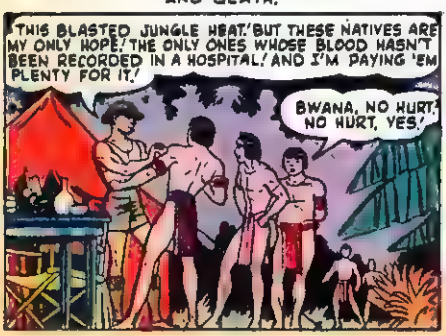


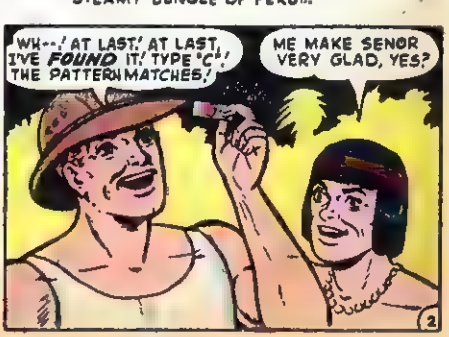

YOURS IS A MOST UNIQUE CASE, SIMON.' MY EXAMINATION SHOWS YOU HAVE A VERY RARE BLOOD, TYPE "C".' IT IS IMPERATIVE YOU GET A TRANSFUSION VERY SOON--FOR YOUR BLOOD IS GRADUALLY THINNING--TURNING TO WATER.'
WH-A-AT.? BUT DOC, IF IT'S ONLY A TRANSFUSION, I CAN PAY FOR IT.' I'LL PAY PLENTY.' ANYTHING YOU SAY.' ONLY GIVE IT TO ME.'


YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MY BOY.' WE'VE HAD THESE CASES BEFORE, AND WE'VE NEVER FOUND A DONOR IN THIS COUNTRY WITH TYPE "C".' WITHOUT A TRANSFUSION, SIMON, I'M AFRAID I CAN'T GIVE YOU LONGER THAN A YEAR TO LIVE.'
NO, NO.' THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.' I DON'T WANT TO DIE.' NOT ME, WITH ALL MY MONEY.' I'LL FIND A TYPE "C" BLOOD IF I HAVE TO SEARCH THE GLOBE.'

I REFUSED TO BELIEVE DOCTOR PETERS.' THERE WAS A TYPE "C" DONOR SOMEWHERE--AND I'D FIND HIM! FRANTICALLY I PHONED EVERY MEDICAL CENTER IN THE WORLD, WITH NO RESULTS.' BUT I WASN'T LICKED.' WITH A SAMPLE SLIDE OF MY BLOOD, A SPECIAL APPARATUS, I SET OUT IN A FEVERISH RACE AGAINST TIME--AND DEATH.'

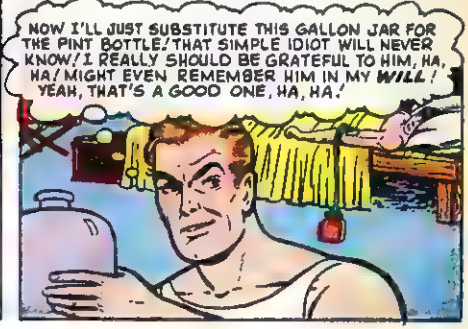
THROUGH CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, I TOURED PRIMATIVE VILLAGE AFTER PRIMITIVE VILLAGE.' WITH MY CRUDE TESTING SET-UP, I EXAMINED THOUSANDS OF SPECIMENS.' BUT NONE REVEALED THAT PARTICULAR PATTERN I KNEW SO WELL.' THE PATTERN THAT HERALDED--MY DOOM.' FINALLY, ONE DAY IN A STEAMY JUNGLE OF PERU...


THIS BLASTED JUNGLE HEAT.' BUT THESE NATIVES ARE MY ONLY HOPE.' THE ONLY ONES WHOSE BLOOD HASN'T BEEN RECORDED IN A HOSPITAL.' AND I'M PAYING 'EM PLENTY FOR IT.'
BWANA, NO HURT. NO HURT, YES.'

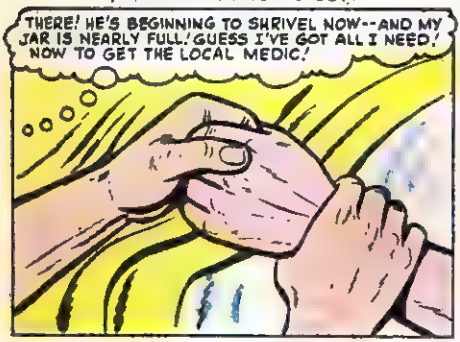


I WAS SAVED! JUBILANT WITH RELIEF I ARRANGED WITH THE INDIAN FOR AN IMMEDIATE TRANSFUSION!

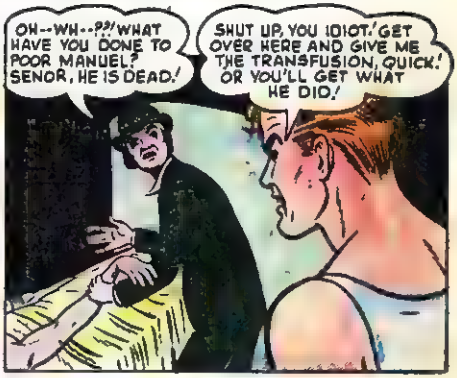
AS I WATCHED THE LIFE-SAVING LIQUID TRICKLE DROP BY PRECIOUS DROP INTO THE PINT BOTTLE, I WAS STRUCK BY A GNAWING THOUGHT. WHAT IF I EVER NEEDED BLOOD AGAIN? WHAT IF I EVER REQUIRED AN IMMEDIATE TRANSFUSION? YES, OF COURSE--I ***MUST*** HAVE A FUTURE SUPPLY! AFTER ALL, WASN'T MY LIFE WORTH MORE THAN AN IGNORANT INDIAN'S?

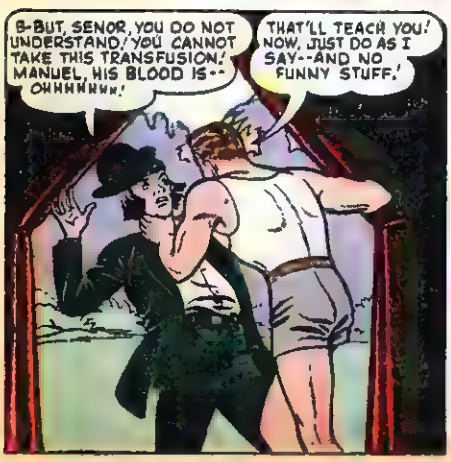

NOW I'LL JUST SUBSTITUTE THIS GALLON JAR FOR THE PINT BOTTLE! THAT SIMPLE IDIOT WILL NEVER KNOW! I REALLY SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO HIM, HA, HA! MIGHT EVEN REMEMBER HIM IN MY ***WILL***! YEAH, THAT'S A GOOD ONE, HA, HA!

BUT THE INDIAN WASN'T SO SIMPLE AS I THOUGHT! AFTER PUMPING A QUART OF BLOOD, HE GREW FAINT AND STARTED TO PROTEST. IN HIS WEAKENED STATE, HE WAS NOT HARD TO SUBDUE! WHEN HE PASSED OUT, I WORKED HIS FIST MYSELF, OPENING AND CLOSING IT, TO FORCE HIS BLOOD OUT...

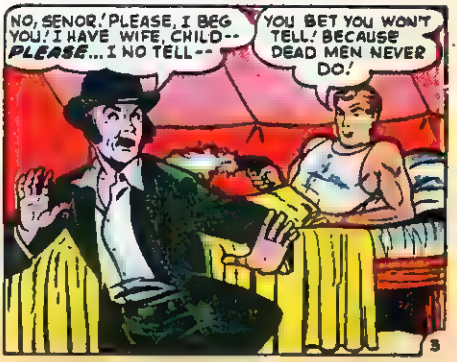


WITH THE AID OF MY "PERSUADER," A .32 COLT TO OVERCOME THE DOCTOR'S FEAR OF FOREIGNERS, I "CONVINCED" HIM TO COME TO MY TENT...

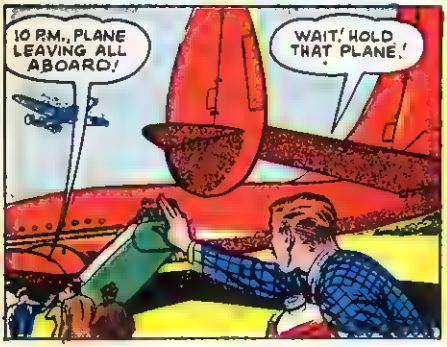

OH--WH--?!? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO POOR MANUEL? SENOR, HE IS DEAD!
SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT! GET OVER HERE AND GIVE ME THE TRANSFUSION, QUICK! OR YOU'LL GET WHAT HE DID!


B-BUT, SENOR, YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND! YOU CANNOT TAKE THIS TRANSFUSION! MANUEL, HIS BLOOD IS-- OHHHHHHH!
THAT'LL TEACH YOU! NOW, JUST DO AS I SAY--AND NO FUNNY STUFF!

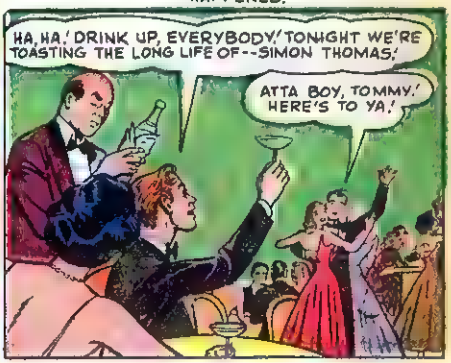
SOON I FELT THE NEW BLOOD COURSE THROUGH MY VEINS, GIVING ME NEW STRENGTH, NEW LIFE! YES, I COULD ***LIVE*** NOW! THE HORRIBLE SPECTRE OF DEATH WAS OVER! I WAS FREE! BUT THERE REMAINED ONE TASK TO BE COMPLETED!



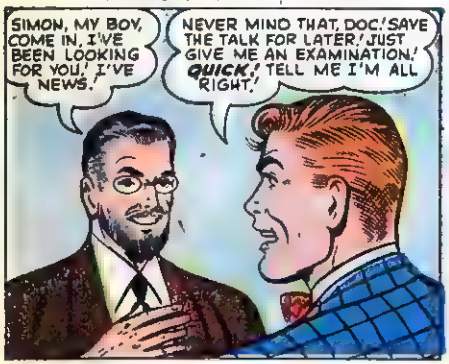
DASHING OUT OF THE TENT WITH MY PRECIOUS JAR, I JUMPED INTO MY CAR, SPED THROUGH THE SLEEPING TOWN AND ON TOWARD THE AIRPORT! ONCE IN AMERICA, I'D BE SAFE FROM THE AUTHORITIES! BESIDES, WHAT DID TWO STUPID INDIANS, MORE OR LESS, MEAN? I WAS SAVED!



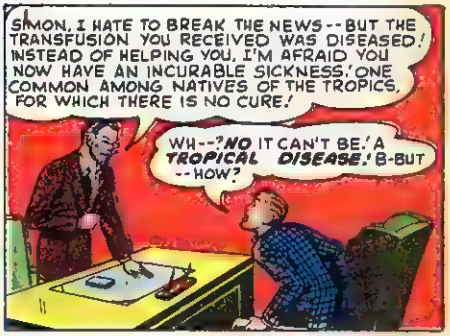
THE NEXT EVENING...THERE I WAS! BACK AT THE CLUB PAREE! THE SAME NOISY CROWDS, THE SAME BEAUTIFUL GIRLS, THE SAME **GOOD TIMES!** JUST AS THOUGH THE TORTUROUS NIGHTMARE NEVER HAPPENED!



YES, I WAS HAPPY! I WAS GOING TO **LIVE**, LIVE AS I NEVER HAD BEFORE! ALL I NEEDED WAS THE MEDICAL CONFIRMATION! NEXT MORNING I VISITED DOCTOR PETERS...


SIMON, MY BOY, COME IN, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU! I'VE NEWS!
NEVER MIND THAT, DOC! SAVE THE TALK FOR LATER! JUST GIVE ME AN EXAMINATION! **QUICK!** TELL ME I'M ALL RIGHT!

IMPATIENTLY I CUT SHORT THE DOCTOR'S QUERIES! ALL HE NEEDED TO KNOW WAS THAT I HAD FOUND A TYPE "C" DONOR IN PERU AND HAD A TRANSFUSION! I COULDN'T WASTE TIME TALKING TO HIM! TOO MANY GOOD TIMES TO CATCH UP ON!


SIMON, I HATE TO BREAK THE NEWS--BUT THE TRANSFUSION YOU RECEIVED WAS DISEASED! INSTEAD OF HELPING YOU, I'M AFRAID YOU NOW HAVE AN INCURABLE SICKNESS! ONE COMMON AMONG NATIVES OF THE TROPICS, FOR WHICH THERE IS NO CURE!
WH--? **NO** IT CAN'T BE! A **TROPICAL DISEASE!** B-BUT --HOW?

I TRIED, BUT COULDN'T REACH YOU BY PHONE, TO TELL YOU I HAD FOUND A TYPE "C" DONOR IN THIS COUNTRY! BUT NOW IT'S TOO LATE, MY BOY! YOU HAVE TWO WEEKS, PERHAPS A MONTH TO LIVE!
NO, NO! IT CAN'T BE TRUE! (SOB!) I HAD TO TRAVEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH--**MURDER!** YES, THAT'S IT--I MURDERED THEM --AND MYSELF!

NO! DON'T! LET ME DIE! I'LL PAY, I'LL GIVE YOU EVERY CENT--
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS TIME YOU CAN'T BUY WHAT YOU NEED! YOU SEE, MY BOY, **LIFE** ISN'T FOR **SALE!**

EDITOR'S NOTE: A FEW MINUTES LATER SIMON THOMAS CRASHED OUT OF THE FIFTEENTH STORY WINDOW OF THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE! HE COULDN'T BUY LIFE...BUT DEATH WAS HIS FOR THE TAKING!

THE END

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Large 1 Karat Stone – real sparkler! Very low priced for quick sales Refined impressive, smooth Man – get this hand some ring now! Bar gain! 1.98

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5 big, impressive Pseudo Diamonds of fiery brilliancy Extra-heavy weight, natural Gold color with $750.00 appearance Manly! Commands respect! 3.95

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BANG IT! DROP IT! THROW IT!

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The special patented PROTECT-O-BALANCE feature every active man and boy has waited for Now you can DROP IT, BANG IT, HIT IT and never worry UNLIMITED GUARANTEE EXCLUSIVE OF PARTS – You never pay one red cent for skilled labor costs! Accurate Swiss jewel movement! Red Sweep Second Hand! Numerals glow at night Rich looking silver color case Unbreakable crystal Modern design! Supply limited Due to international crisis. Get yours NOW while you can Specially priced at . . . 7.97

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Your own INITIAL in Raised Gold color effect Lovely set on a BLOOD RED stone flanked by 2 sparkling pseudo Diamonds imported from Europe Ring made of 14 Karat Rolled Gold Plate very fashionably designed with 3 initials on it

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Enjoy a lifetime of it's so handsomely masculine so distinctive Mention initial desired and send size of finger for your Bargain price 2.97

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GO PLACES AND SEE THINGS!

Get a close-up of that neck-to-neck finish at the races, the flashing upercut of the boxer, the quick pass down the football field, seashore scenes, etc See what your neighbors are doing without being seen!

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NAME OF ARTICLE DESIRED	PRICE

NAME (Please print) _____

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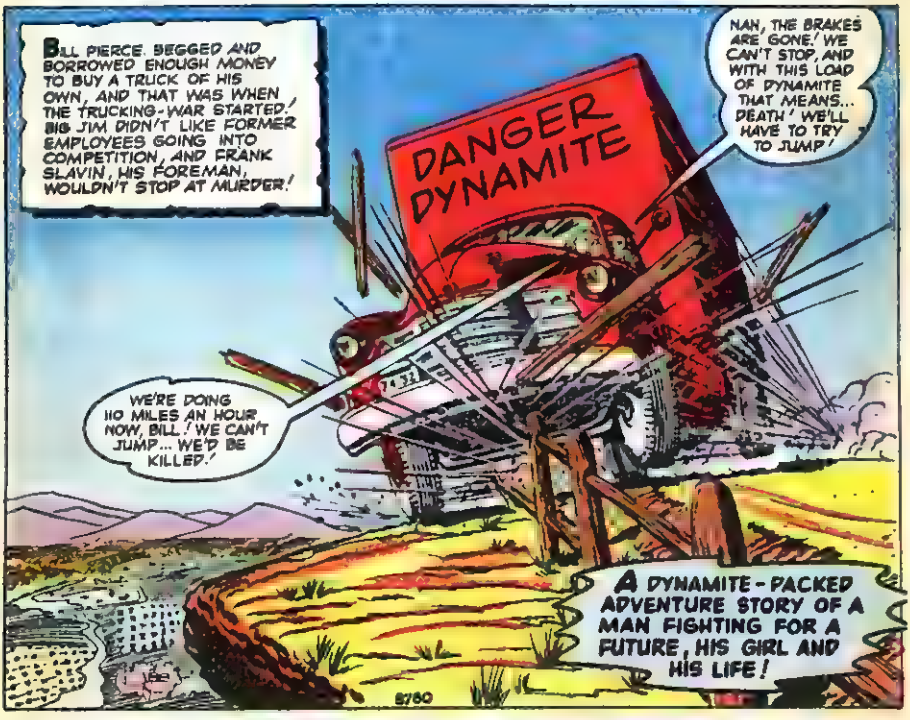
PLEASE! Send ring sizes on thin strip of paper wrapped around finger.

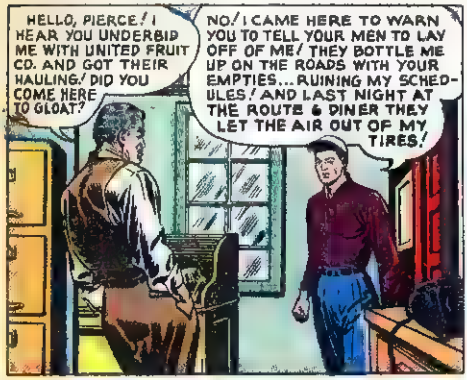
DRIVE of DEATH


BILL PIERCE BEGGED AND BORROWED ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A TRUCK OF HIS OWN, AND THAT WAS WHEN THE TRUCKING-WAR STARTED! BIG JIM DIDN'T LIKE FORMER EMPLOYEES GOING INTO COMPETITION, AND FRANK SLAVIN, HIS FOREMAN, WOULDN'T STOP AT MURDER!
DANGER DYNAMITE
MAN, THE BRAKES ARE GONE! WE CAN'T STOP, AND WITH THIS LOAD OF DYNAMITE THAT MEANS... DEATH! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY TO JUMP!
WE'RE DOING 110 MILES AN HOUR NOW, BILL! WE CAN'T JUMP... WE'D BE KILLED!
A DYNAMITE-PACKED ADVENTURE STORY OF A MAN FIGHTING FOR A FUTURE, HIS GIRL AND HIS LIFE!
S760

I DROVE MY NEW JOB INTO THE YARD OF THE FORBES TRUCKING CO AND BRAKED TO A STOP! I WAS BURNT UP AND WAS HERE TO TELL BIG JIM FORBES ABOUT IT!
WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE WILD CATTER! GET THAT HUNK OF JUNK OUT OF THIS YARD... YOU DON'T WORK HERE NO MORE, PIERCE!
I'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH BIG JIM!
ES TRUCKI G CO

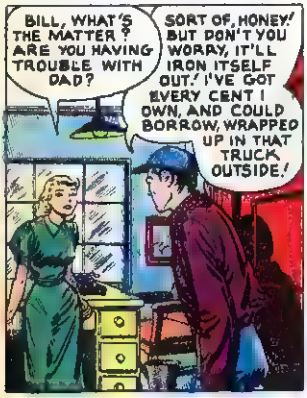
I WARN YOU, SLAVIN, KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY TRUCK WHILE I'M INSIDE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER--- YOU BEEN HAVIN' A LITTLE TROUBLE, PIERCE? YOU'VE GOT TO GET USED TO TROUBLE WHEN YOU BUCK THE BIG COMPANIES ---AN' BUTTER UP TO THE BOSS'S DAUGHTER!

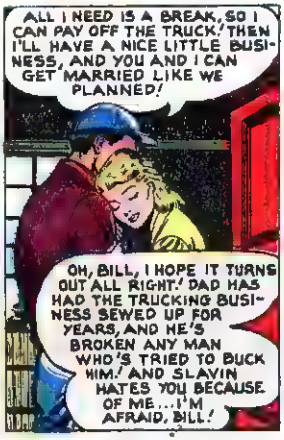
"He was trying to goad me into trouble--- trouble I couldn't afford with a load of perishable fruit in the truck! I bottled up my temper and went into the office!"


HELLO, PIERCE! I HEAR YOU UNDERBID ME WITH UNITED FRUIT CO. AND GOT THEIR HAULING! DID YOU COME HERE TO GLOAT?
NO! I CAME HERE TO WARN YOU TO TELL YOUR MEN TO LAY OFF OF ME! THEY BOTTLE ME UP ON THE ROADS WITH YOUR EMPTIES... RUINING MY SCHEDULES! AND LAST NIGHT AT THE ROUTE 6 DINER THEY LET THE AIR OUT OF MY TIRES!

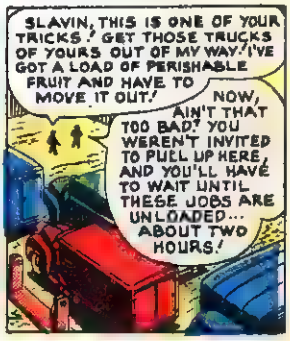
THAT'S TOO BAD! BUT DON'T COME TO ME WITH YOUR TROUBLES! -- YOU DON'T WORK HERE ANYMORE, AND IF YOU THINK YOU CAN BUCK AN OUTFIT LIKE MINE WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE, YOU GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING! NOW GET OUT!
O.K.! BECAUSE OF NAN, I FIGURED I'D SPEAK TO YOU FIRST, BUT FROM NOW ON I'LL FIGHT YOU WITH EVERY DIRTY TRICK YOU PLAY ON ME!

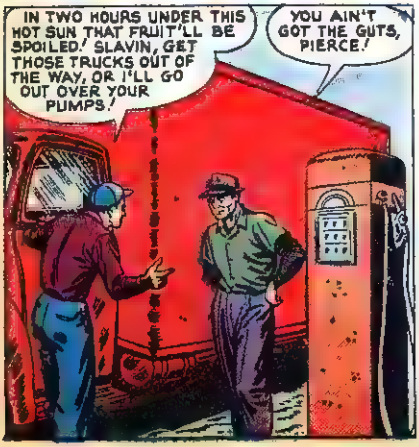
"I walked out boiling...and bumped into Nan in the outer office!"


BILL, WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE WITH DAD?
SORT OF, HONEY! BUT DON'T YOU WORRY, IT'LL IRON ITSELF OUT! I'VE GOT EVERY CENT I OWN, AND COULD BORROW, WRAPPED UP IN THAT TRUCK OUTSIDE!

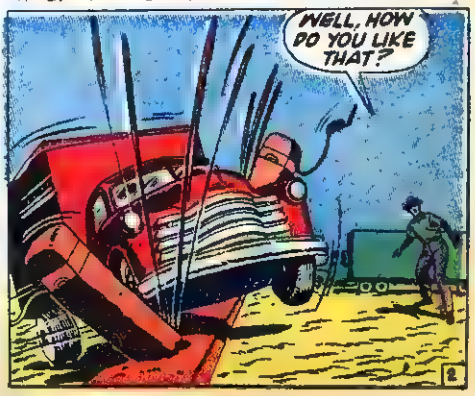

ALL I NEED IS A BREAK, SO I CAN PAY OFF THE TRUCK! THEN I'LL HAVE A NICE LITTLE BUSINESS, AND YOU AND I CAN GET MARRIED LIKE WE PLANNED!
OH, BILL, I HOPE IT TURNS OUT ALL RIGHT! DAD HAS HAD THE TRUCKING BUSINESS SEWED UP FOR YEARS, AND HE'S BROKEN ANY MAN WHO'S TRIED TO BUCK HIM! AND SLAVIN HATES YOU BECAUSE OF ME... I'M AFRAID, BILL!

"I pacified Nan, but couldn't linger! I had that load of fruit on my mind that had to roll to the markets while it was fresh! I went out to the truck ... it was hemmed in!"


SLAVIN, THIS IS ONE OF YOUR TRICKS! GET THOSE TRUCKS OF YOURS OUT OF MY WAY! I'VE GOT A LOAD OF PERISHABLE FRUIT AND HAVE TO MOVE IT OUT!
NOW, AIN'T THAT TOO BAD! YOU WEREN'T INVITED TO PULL UP HERE, AND YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THESE JOBS ARE UNLOADED... ABOUT TWO HOURS!

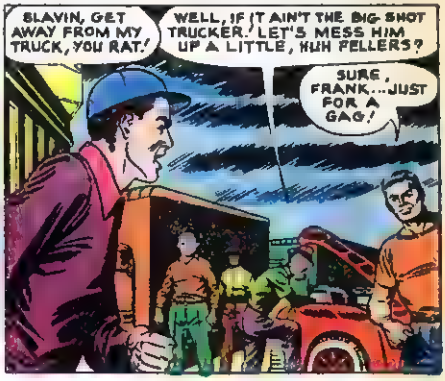

IN TWO HOURS UNDER THIS HOT SUN THAT FRUIT'LL BE SPOILED! SLAVIN, GET THOSE TRUCKS OUT OF THE WAY, OR I'LL GO OUT OVER YOUR PUMPS!
YOU AIN'T GOT THE GUTS, PIERCE!

"I was mad enough to do anything by this time! I gunned the engine and took off, giving her all she'd take... slamming over the pumps!"

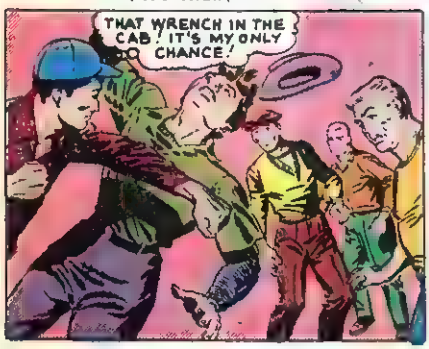


I'LL FIX HIM FOR THIS, BOSS, FIX HIM GOOD!
NO, DAD! DON'T LET FRANK DO ANYTHING!
BE QUIET, MAN! HE AIN'T FOR YOU, SO GET IT OUT OF YOUR MIND! BY THE TIME I'M THROUGH WITH HIM HE'LL WISH HE'D NEVER HEARD THE NAME OF FORBES! I'LL BREAK HIM!

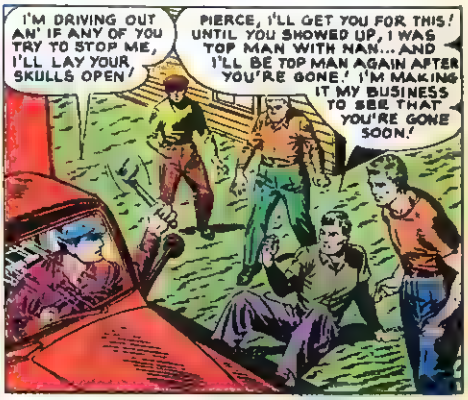
"THAT NIGHT ON THE WAY BACK, I STOPPED AT THE ROUTE 6 DINER FOR COFFEE, AND WHEN I CAME OUT THERE WERE TWO FORBES TRUCKS PULLED UP! FRANK SLAVIN WAS BENDING OVER MY ENGINE!"


SLAVIN, GET AWAY FROM MY TRUCK, YOU RAT!
WELL, IF IT AIN'T THE BIG SHOT TRUCKER! LET'S MESS HIM UP A LITTLE, HUH FELLERS?
SURE, FRANK... JUST FOR A GAG!

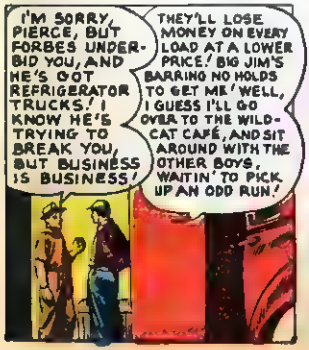
"THE ODDS WERE BIG! SLAVIN AND HIS MEN COULD GIVE ME A WORKING OVER THAT WOULD LAY ME OUT FOR A MONTH! THEY SHUFFLED FORWARD, THEIR BIG FISTS CLENCHED... AND I DID WHAT THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING... TORE INTO THEM!"



"I GRABBED THE WRENCH AND JUMPED BEHIND THE WHEEL!"


I'M DRIVING OUT AN' IF ANY OF YOU TRY TO STOP ME, I'LL LAY YOUR SKULLS OPEN!
PIERCE, I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS! UNTIL YOU SHOWED UP, I WAS TOP MAN WITH NAN... AND I'LL BE TOP MAN AGAIN AFTER YOU'RE GONE! I'M MAKING IT MY BUSINESS TO SEE THAT YOU'RE GONE SOON!

"I DROVE OFF, AND ROLLED INTO THE UNITED FRUIT CO. ABOUT ONE O'CLOCK, READY TO PICK UP ANOTHER LOAD! THERE WERE TWO FORBES TRUCKS THERE, ALREADY LOADING..."


I'M SORRY, PIERCE, BUT FORBES UNDER-BID YOU, AND HE'S GOT REFRIGERATOR TRUCKS! I KNOW HE'S TRYING TO BREAK YOU, BUT BUSINESS IS BUSINESS!
THEY'LL LOSE MONEY ON EVERY LOAD AT A LOWER PRICE! BIG JIM'S BARRING NO HOLDS TO GET ME! WELL, I GUESS I'LL GO OVER TO THE WILD-CAT CAFÉ, AND SIT AROUND WITH THE OTHER BOYS, WAITIN' TO PICK UP AN ODD RUN!

"I WENT TO THE WILDCAT! WEASEL COLLUCI, A SLAVIN MAN, WAS SITTING ON AN END STOOL!"

HOW'S THINGS, PIERCE?
I'VE GOT TO GET SOME LOADS TO PAY OFF THAT JOB OF MINE!
I NEED A LOAD OF DYNAMITE TRUCKED DOWN TO THE NEW DAM AT THE BOTTOM OF LONG HILL! I'LL PAY PLENTY TO THE MAN WHO TAKES THE HAUL!

"I NEEDED THIS HAUL REGARDLESS OF THE DANGER OF CARRYING DYNAMITE THAT COULD BLOW AT THE LEAST JOGGLE! BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HOW DANGEROUS IT WAS GOING TO BE, BECAUSE I DIDN'T SEE WEASEL LEAVE AND GO DIRECT TO SLAVIN!"

AN' HE'S HAULIN' THE STUFF TO THE NEW DAM!

DYNAMITE, HUH? THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! LET'S GO!

I'LL LEAVE A NOTE FOR DAD, TELLING HIM ABOUT THIS! THEN I'LL DO THE ONLY THING I CAN DO TO MAKE SLAVIN STOP WHATEVER HE'S UP TO!

"MEANWHILE I HAD LOADED MY TRUCK WITH THE TREACHEROUS CARGO, AND WAS IN THE ENGINEERS OFFICE GETTING MY BILL OF LADING WHEN SLAVIN SAW HIS CHANCE..."

WHEN HE HITS LONG HILL WITH THIS LOAD AND FINDS OUT HIS BRAKES ARE GONE, I'D LIKE TO SEE HIS FACE... THERE WON'T BE MUCH LEFT AFTERWARDS!

HURRY UP, FRANK!

"I ROLLED HER OUT SLOWLY, CAREFULLY, AND WHEELED HER TO THE CREST OF LONG HILL, A MURDEROUS TEN MILE DOWN-STRETCH!"

BILL, HELP ME THROUGH!

NAN! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE? HOW DID YOU GET THERE?

BILL, SLAVIN WAS ALL SET TO DO SOMETHING TO YOUR TRUCK! I LEFT A NOTE FOR DAD AND..

YOU CAN TELL ME LATER! YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!...I'M HAULING DYNAMITE! I'LL BRAKE AND PULL UP, AND YOU GET OUT FAST!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BILL?

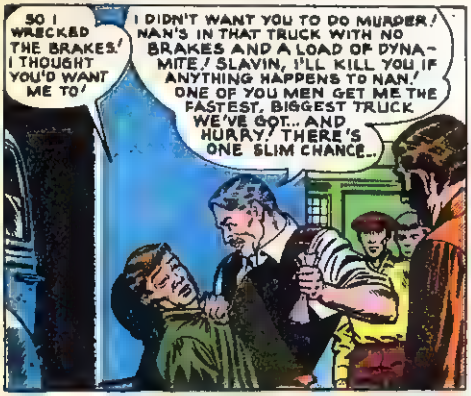
THE BRAKES ARE GONE.. I CAN'T STOP, AND WE'RE ALREADY ON THE DOWN GRADE OF LONG HILL!

"SHE PICKED UP SPEED LIKE A LIVE THING... 80, 90, 110 MILES AN HOUR, DOWN THAT TEN MILE HILL! WE WERE TRAPPED AND HELPLESS IN THAT METAL MONSTER WITH A DEATH LOAD IN ITS BELLY!"

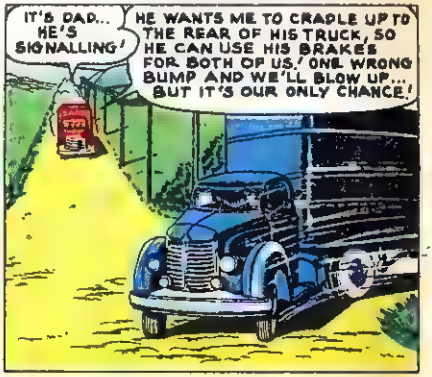
WE'VE GOT TO JUMP... I'LL NEVER MAKE THE TURN AT THE BOTTOM!

WE'VE GOT TO JUMP... BUT WE CAN'T... WE'RE GOING TOO FAST... WE'LL BE KILLED IF WE JUMP... AND KILLED IF WE DON'T!

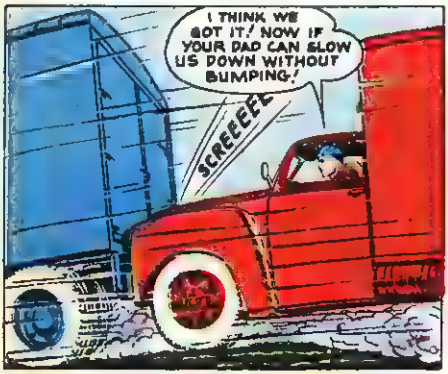
"WHILE WE SLAMMED DOWN THE GRADE IN THAT DEATH RIDE, BIG JIM FORBES HAD FOUND NAN'S NOTE AND HAMMERED THE TRUTH OUT OF SLAVIN.'"

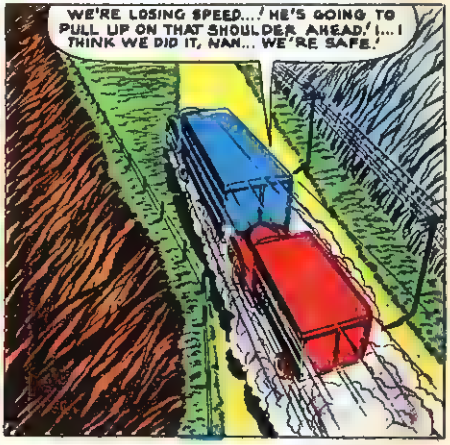

SO I WRECKED THE BRAKES! I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT ME TO!
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DO MURDER! NAN'S IN THAT TRUCK WITH NO BRAKES AND A LOAD OF DYNAMITE! SLAVIN, I'LL KILL YOU IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO NAN! ONE OF YOU MEN GET ME THE FASTEST, BIGGEST TRUCK WE'VE GOT... AND HURRY! THERE'S ONE SLIM CHANCE...

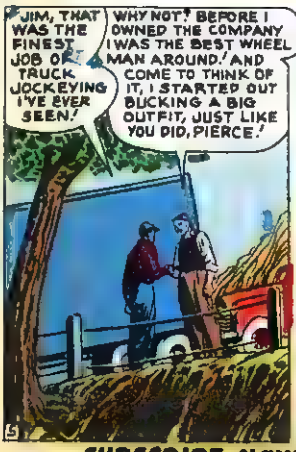
"WE WERE THREE QUARTERS OF THE WAY DOWN THE HILL, WITH NOTHING LEFT BUT A PRAYER, WHEN A FORBES CO. TRUCK SHOT OUT OF A SIDE ROAD, RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!"

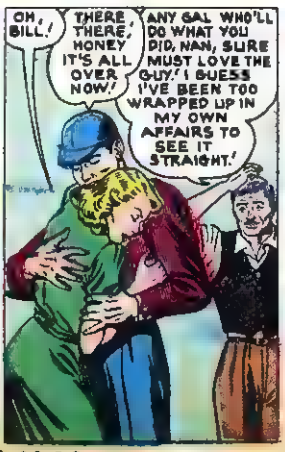

IT'S DAD... HE'S SIGNALLING!
HE WANTS ME TO CRADLE UP TO THE REAR OF HIS TRUCK, SO HE CAN USE HIS BRAKES FOR BOTH OF US! ONE WRONG BUMP AND WE'LL BLOW UP... BUT IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

"I PULLED IN DIRECTLY BEHIND BIG JIM'S CRATE! I COULD HEAR METAL GRINDING AS WE TOUCHED, AND I GRITTED MY TEETH AND PRAYED THAT THE SPARKS WOULDN'T SHOOT BACK!"






JIM, THAT WAS THE FINEST JOB OF TRUCK JOCKEYING I'VE EVER SEEN!
WHY NOT? BEFORE I OWNED THE COMPANY I WAS THE BEST WHEEL MAN AROUND! AND COME TO THINK OF IT, I STARTED OUT BUCKING A BIG OUTFIT, JUST LIKE YOU DID, PIERCE!


OH, BILL!
THERE, THERE, HONEY IT'S ALL OVER NOW!
ANY GAL WHO'LL DO WHAT YOU DID, NAN, SURE MUST LOVE THE GUY! I GUESS I'VE BEEN TOO WRAPPED UP IN MY OWN AFFAIRS TO SEE IT STRAIGHT!

BILL, I RECKON FORBES CO. COULD USE A FIGHTER LIKE YOU... AS A JUNIOR PARTNER, I MEAN! UNDERSTAND, I'M NOT OFFERING YOU THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY SON-IN-LAW, BUT BECAUSE I THINK IT'S GOOD BUSINESS! IF YOU CAN'T BEAT A COMPETITOR, ABSORB HIM!
SURE, JIM! BUSINESS IS BUSINESS!
THE END

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